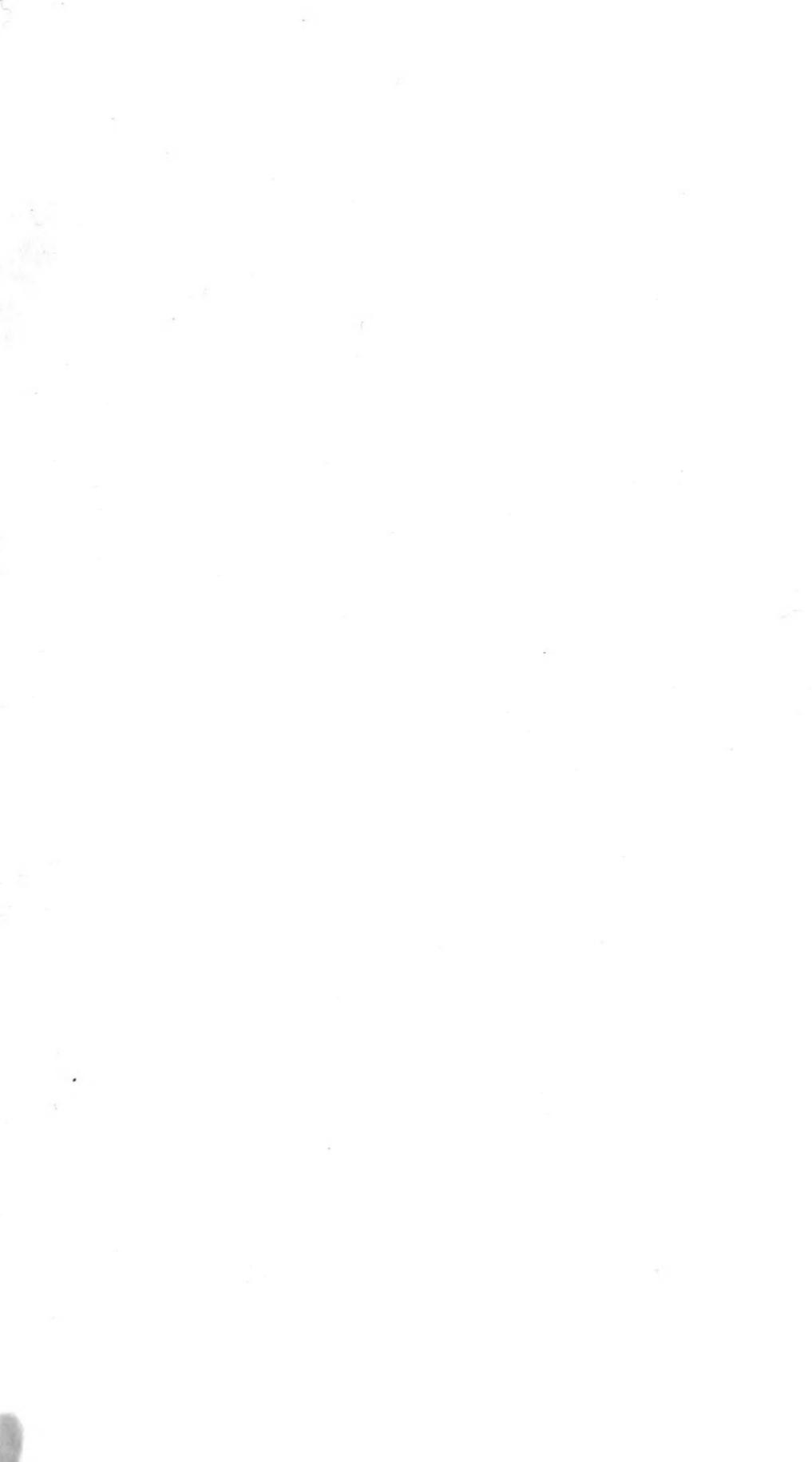


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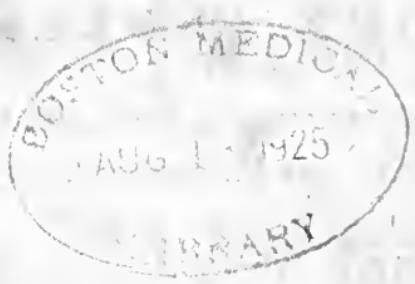
OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
THEORY AND CURE
OF THE
VENEREAL DISEASE.

By JOHN ANDREE,

MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION OF SURGEONS OF LONDON,
AND SURGEON TO THE MAGDALEN HOSPITAL.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. DAVIS, Ludgate-Street.



TO

JOHN ANDREE, M.D.

SIR,

I BEG leave to offer the following short Work to your protection.

The Rank you have during many years deservedly borne in the profession of Physic, and the Character you have ever supported,

supported, of a judicious, candid, and honourable Practitioner, would have been sufficient inducements to render me desirous of addressing this Dedication to you: but, Sir, a much more powerful motive, is, my desire of offering you every possible mark of respect.

I am, Sir,

Your most dutiful Son,

JOHN ANDREE, Jun.

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P R E F A C E.

THE ensuing Observations on the Venereal Disease, are published with the design of obviating a complaint, made by many Students in Surgery, and some others of the Profession, of the want of a treatise on the present method of curing this disease in London, in private practice: for they assert (and with truth) that the method practised in Hospitals, of salivating for the cure of most venereal disorders, cannot be adopted in private, as very few patients would submit to so severe a mercurial course, unless for the cure of the worst state of the disease.

I have endeavoured to render this Work as concise as possible, and have therefore designedly

signedly avoided entering into many such particulars of the disease as are generally known, or may be found in books; dwelling chiefly upon those symptoms whose cure I judged would admit of some improvement.

I should be extremely sorry to disgust any, but particularly the judicious part of the Profession, by this Publication—them I do not pretend to instruct—and I would willingly have suppressed the Work, had the subject been adopted by another.

If the motive above stated for publishing these Observations is answered, I shall be happy; my highest ambition being to merit the character of having done some good to so truly useful and noble a Science as that of Surgery.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE VENEREAL DISEASE.

THE method of curing the Venereal Disease, has been as much improved within the last forty years, as that of any other, excepting the Small Pox. This is known by the observations of those who have been so long acquainted with Surgery in London, and by drawing a comparison between the most skilful modes of cure now used, and those recommended by the late Dr. Daniel Turner, in his *Syphillis*; by which it will appear, that the doses of mercury then given were full double in quantity to those now used; that salivation, drastic purges, or mercurial emetics, and confinement to a warm room, were usually thought necessary for the cure of every symptom of the disease, excepting the gonorrhœa; and withal, that the cures were not performed in less time than by the methods now in use.

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The time of the first appearance of the disease in this country, has generally been made a matter of doubt ; nor have the opinions of writers concerning its origination been more consistent.

That its origin is of a very ancient date, is known from the testimony of various authors ; and in the original manuscript of the ancient customary of the diocese of Winchester, for the good order of the public stews, or brothels, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, which is about three hundred years ago, the disease is spoken of as a common, and not a new one. In fact, the disease being a poison sui generis, and generated in the human body, it must be very difficult to fix the time when it first appeared in this island, or to ascertain its primary cause ; and on this principle it seems unnecessary to seek for the date of its importation from a foreign country, as it is probably an original disease of this, as well as of many other parts of the world. That it is generated in the human body, can scarcely be doubted ; for there is no reason to believe, that it could have been received from any mineral or vegetable substances, nor from any other animal, as we do not know that any creature besides mankind is subject to it : a dog cannot be infected

fe<ted with it; for experiments have been made to prove this, by applying venereal matter to wounds, and to their genitals, which never produced any effects at all like the venereal disorder. The cause and origin of several other contagious diseases, formed in, and peculiar to, the human body, appear equally extraordinary and unintelligible: but there is great reason to suppose that this disease is not co&ëval with mankind; because, if it had existed for many centuries before the specific for its cure was known, it is possible that the human race would have been nearly exterminated by it in those countries where it had raged.

Previous to the ensuing observations upon the theory and cure of this disease, it may be, perhaps, thought necessary to give a few outlines of its history in this country. At its first appearance, it was regarded as a species of plague; the infected were debarred the usual intercourse with the rest of mankind (the disease being supposed to be contagious in every mode of contact): they received no farther assistance from the healing art than a palliation of the symptoms of the disorder by topical applications, and copious evacuations by venæction, purgative, diuretic, and sudorific medicines. Afterwards guaiacum, sarsaparilla, and

other medicines of the same kind, were prescribed as antidotes for the cure of this disease; and by these remedies its symptoms were usually palliated. The external and internal use of mercury was next introduced into practice, as the only specific for its cure; but afterwards got into disrepute, on account of the enormous quantity which was thought needful to effect a proper cure, being often, by the violence of its action on the constitution, fatal to the patient; and frequently leaving the constitution so debilitated, as never to recover its former vigour.

Since the fifteenth century, when it was discovered that mercury was a certain antidote, and the only medicine which could be relied on for the cure of this disease, various theories and modes of cure have been, at different times, almost universally adopted and practised in England: most of which are not so judicious as those used by our ancestors; for Ambrose Parey, a sensible Writer, and skilful Surgeon, in his Treatise on Surgery, published in 1579, has better ideas on the theory and cure of the Venereal Disease, than many authors who have written on it since that time.

The Venereal Disorder has been usually divided into, the first infection, or the gonorrhœa;

rhœa; and the second, or confirmed lues venerea. This theory appears to me to be too general; for the second stage will certainly admit of a division into two distinct and different states: therefore the following theory of the disease seems to be more consistent with its symptoms; and to convey a more critical idea of its stages; which is this—There are three states of the disorder: the first is the Gonorrhœa, and its effects; the second, Chancre, its immediate consequences, and some other symptoms: the third is the confirmed, or constitutional Lues Venerea; for the disease cannot be properly so called, excepting in that state when the symptoms seem to be caused by the action of venereal virus, generated in the patient's body.

Having treated on the gonorrhœa, and its effects, in an Essay on that subject, published in 1776,* I proceed to the second stage of the disease. This, in its most common state, is clearly a local disorder; for it is a venereal ulcer, caused by the application of venereal matter to the part affected; which sore is called a Chancre.

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* Which may be had where this book is sold.

A Chancre is an eroding ulcer: it usually begins from a minute inflamed spot, much resembling a part which has been burnt by a spark of fire. Within the space of one week after this appearance, the centre of the inflammation ulcerates. The part on which the ulcer is seated is always hardened; which hardness distinctly separates the diseased from the sound part. From this time, the ulcer and surrounding hardness continue to enlarge, till mercury is given, or proper remedies are applied to the part. A chancre, from the time of its origin till it is in a healing state, has a peculiar appearance, different from that of any other sore, and such a one as cannot be learnt by any words; but whoever attentively examines such sores, and properly remarks the difference between them and such as are not venereal, will seldom be deceived in prognosticating upon them. The colour of a chancre is a pale-red, sometimes inclining to a cream colour; but this, in different cases, varies from a deep-red to a dingy-cream colour; and, if examined through a magnifying-glaſs, will be seen to be studded over with numerous small hillocks of flesh. The surrounding diseased part is most commonly swelled in a circular form, which sometimes is not raised higher than the

sound

found part, but is always hardened, as may be perceived by gently pressing the part between the finger and thumb : this part, in some cases, is red and inflamed ; in others, it retains its natural colour ; but, in general, it has a slight tinge of a dusky-red. These are the common appearances in chancres upon the penis of men, or pudenda of women.

The parts on which they usually happen are the glans penis, the corona glandis, the prepuce, the frænum, the skin of the penis ; the outer and inner labia pudenda, the clitoris and its prepuce, and sometimes the vagina, in women. The number of chancres which arise in consequence of an unclean connection, varies considerably, (which happens from causes unknown) being from one to ten or twelve ; the most common cases are from one to about four : and I have observed, that, in proportion as they are more numerous, they have a less degree of venereal malignancy, are more easily cured, and are the less liable to produce the constitutional lues ; whereas a single chancre is most commonly either very difficult and tedious of cure, or heals too soon, which gives rise to other symptoms of the Venereal Disease.

The next circumstance to be considered, is the time of the appearance of chancres after

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the infecting virus has been applied. It is usually from about thirty hours to three or four weeks; the most common time is about five or six days. I have been told of a case, in which it was near seven weeks before they appeared. But no material assistance, in forming a just prognostic of the future progress of chancres, seems deducible from the time of their appearance, farther than that, in general, the earlier they arise, the greater is the tendency to inflammation; and that the later they are, there is more reason to be apprehensive of the disease having entered the constitution. It is a common opinion, that the earlier the disease is in its appearance, the greater is the degree of virulence of the matter which communicated it, and consequently, that the symptoms will be the more virulent; but experiments which have been made on this subject tend to prove, that the malignancy of the symptoms is entirely independent on the degree of virulence of the infecting fluid; and from analogy, by comparing this disease with some others, we have farther reason to adopt this opinion: for example, in the Small Pox, the violence of the disease depends on the constitution, and the method of treatment; for (experimenti gratia) people have been inoculated

Iated from the worst kind of the disease, which has produced as mild and good a species of the Small Pox as matter from the best kind ; and I have observed, in those who have had the Venereal Disease many times, that the symptoms have usually appeared nearly at the same distance of time after the infecting fluid was applied ; also, that some people are much more liable to catch the disease than others : which circumstances tend strongly towards proving that the time of its appearance depends principally upon the tendency of the constitution to be affected by the venereal virus.

When a chancre is forming on the glans penis, or its corona, on the clitoris, or preputium clitoridis, the urethra is often affected by sympathy of parts, attended with great uneasiness, and a slight ardor urinæ : this is readily accounted for, from the continuation of these parts in the male subject, and their contiguity in women. This symptom usually goes off, as soon as the chancre is completely formed.

The size of chancres varies considerably, but most commonly bears a proportion to their number : when there is only one, it is commonly about twice as large as the flat surface of a split pea ; and, on the contrary, when

they are numerous, the surfaces of all united would not much exceed that dimension ; but this circumstance is very uncertain, as some single ones are small, and some of the other kind are large ; and is only applicable to them soon after their first appearance, as the size afterwards may be greatly increased from many causes ; such as a bad constitution, inflammation, or ill treatment of the disease. Chancres on the glans are seldom so large, or have so much swelling and hardness, as those on the prepuce : this circumstance may probably be owing to the different texture of the parts diseased ; the cellular membrane being very apt to swell and harden when inflamed, whereas the glans is not so disposed. From this cause, chancres on the last-mentioned part generally appear sunk into its substance, and not surrounded with so much hardness.

Every chancre is caused by venereal matter applied to the part. The Venereal Disease does not seem to be capable of being communicated in any other manner than by the application of venereal matter to a part which has no cuticle, or to an erosion or wound. Experiments have been made to prove, that the blood of a person who has the constitutional lues venerea, will not communicate the disease,

disease, though applied to a wound: nor is it communicable by the perspiratory organs; for lying in the same bed with an infected person will never be productive of the disease: nor is pocky matter, applied to the skin on the hands, and probably on any part of the body, capable of doing this; for Surgeons are frequently obliged to wet their fingers and hands with such matter: neither is vapour exhaling from venereal ulcers, or the breath of an infected person, capable of communicating the disease; for Surgeons never catch the disease by smelling the breath of persons who have venereal ulcers in their throats.* The semen and secretions from the male or female parts of generation of a person who has the lues venerea, whether the confirmed pox, or any other symptoms, are not capable of communicating the disease; for I have known many instances of coition being used by a clean man with an infected woman, and the reverse, without any injury to the clean person: but this is only applicable to cases in which the disease is so situated, as that none of its pus is applied to the parts of generation in coition. From this

* One of the articles of impeachment against Cardinal Wolsey, was, that he whispered in the King's ear at a time when he knew he was afflicted with the Pox.

this observation it seems highly probable, that the semen masculinum, and the fluids secreted by the female parts of generation, are never contaminated by the venereal virus, unless the secretory organs are the seat of a venereal inflammation and diseased secretion.

Chancres happen in various parts of the body; for a wound in any part is equally liable to become a venereal sore, if venereal pus is applied to it: cases of this kind have happened to Surgeons, from pocky matter accidentally touching wounds or scratches on their fingers or hands; and they have happened on the lips from kissing a person who has had a venereal ulcer in the mouth, on the lips, or the tongue. Under these circumstances only, the disease may be received by drinking or eating after an infected person. It may also be communicated by sitting on a vault after a person has used it who had the disorder; but in no other manner than by the genitals being touched by matter left on the place by the infected person.

A chancre has been generally imagined to be a symptom of the Venereal Disease, denoting that the patient has the disorder in his constitution, or blood. This opinion seems to have been adopted without mature consideration, and to be erroneous; for, as it hath been proved

proved that the disease is always got by the application of venereal virus or matter, and that chancres, when they are the first symptoms of the disease, usually, I believe always, appear on the part where the infecting fluid was applied, it follows, as the most rational conclusion, that the virus had remained in the part where the chancre is seated ; for to suppose that it had been absorbed into the blood, and had then fixed upon the part where it was first applied, would imply a belief that the disease, when in the blood, makes its first appearance upon the genitals, in preference to other parts, which is certainly not true.

These two general observations may be made on the cure of chancres : first, that they heal sooner, and in a more kindly manner, in people who are of a good constitution, than in those of a bad one ; and when seated on parts which are well supplied with blood-vessels : on the last principle I have observed, that those on the glans penis, and internal parts of women, are easier of cure than those on the prepuce, or external labia of women. Chancres often cause swelling of the part where seated : this very seldom happens when the glans penis, or vagina, are the seat of the complaint ; but is a very common occurrence when they are upon

upon the prepuce, or external labia. It may also be remarked, that when they are upon parts which are not apt to swell without great injury, they generally appear to erode deeper in the part, as may be observed by attending to their appearance upon the glans, or internal parts of women, and on parts where the scarf-skin is thick, as on the ends of the fingers.

Previous to treating on the cure of chancres, it seems necessary to add a few words upon the different preparations of mercury.

Argentum vivum, mercurius hydrargyrum, mercury, or quicksilver, is a fluid metallic substance: its weight is next to that of gold: it is volatile in a strong fire, calcines in a weaker fire: it dissolves in the nitrous acid, is corroded by the vitriolic; but, in its liquid state, is not acted upon by the marine acid: by trituration, or heat, it dissolves most of the metals and semi-metals: it unites with balsam of sulphur, unctuous, resinous, mucilaginous, earthy, and some other such substances: it is, in some degree, soluble in the saliva: and it is asserted, that, by intense cold, it becomes a solid substance. Also, from late experiments made by the ingenious Dr. Priestly, it appears, that by agitation with distilled water it dissolves into a black matter, and that by electricity

tricity it may be formed into a vapour; an account of which may be seen in Dr. Priestly's 4th volume of Experiments on Natural Philosophy.

The mercurial preparations at present most in use, for the cure of the Venereal Disease, are of two kinds: the first are the mild preparations; the second, the acrid ones. The mild preparations of mercury are made by separating its particles, by trituration, with substances which do not act upon it chymically, but only serve as a menstruum to suspend or keep the separated particles asunder. Mercurial ointment is by much the most used of any of this kind: it is commonly made by first separating the particles of mercury by trituration with turpentine, and then forming it into an ointment, by mixing it with the same weight or more of hog's-lard; but a much better method of making mercurial ointment is, by rubbing the mercury with an equal weight of hog's-lard, or some other animal fat, in a marble mortar, till all the mercurial globules disappear, without adding turpentine, or any acrid matter, to promote the extinction of the mercury. A mercurial liniment, to be used instead of mercurial ointment, may also be made, by using oil (instead of hog's-lard),

or

or the synovia of the ox, or sheep, which does better than oil. This would probably enter the pores of the skin with more facility than the ointment.

Mercury may be extinguished by trituration with twice its weight of gum arabic, moistened with a small proportion of water, or syrup: the same may be done with unclarified honey; whereas this can scarcely be effected with honey clarified, because by that process a quantity of mucus is taken from it, which is the chief assistant in the division of the mercury. An exceeding good preparation may also be made by triturating it with confectio cardiaca, or with most of the conserves: the conserva cynosbati answers this purpose best.

Besides the above mild preparations of this metal, various others have been used; to treat of which would carry us beyond the designed extent of this work, and would probably appear to have been unnecessary, when the ensuing remarks are given upon the action of mercury on the human body.

Unguentum mercuriale is now, and has been for two centuries past, the most common preparation in use for the cure of those venereal complaints which are supposed to require salivation. This, though one of the mildest mercurial

curial preparations, is very often productive of the two following inconveniences: of raising a ptyalism too soon; and being very apt to irritate the bowels, causing a diarrhoea, and sometimes even a dysentery. Other objections to the use of this preparation are, that the rubbing it into the skin is a tiresome, tedious, and uncleanly operation; also, that it often causes a very troublesome and painful eruption over the whole part on which it has been rubbed.

Crude mercury, prepared by trituration with mucilage of gum arabic, may be administered in the form of a bolus, or pills, by adding any proper hard substance; or in a fluid form, by adding water instead of solid substances. This is an exceeding good preparation, being not so apt to irritate the stomach or bowels, nor to raise a spitting, as most other preparations of mercury are; and is therefore a very eligible medicine for the cure of those cases in which the object is, to introduce a large quantity of mercury into the body without producing any of its usual effects.

Mercury, extinguished by being rubbed with a sufficient quantity of unclarified honey, may be made into pills, by mixing as much bread, or any other solid substance, as is necessary to

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make it of a proper consistence for that purpose. This is a very good preparation, but is more apt to irritate the bowels, and pass off by stool, than most of the other mild mercurial preparations.

The extinction of mercury by trituration with *confectio cardiaca*, forms an excellent preparation, well adapted for those cases in which it is necessary to give a cordial medicine with the mercury, either on account of the state of the constitution, the irritability, or want of power in the stomach and bowels to retain the mercury.

The acrid or chymical preparations of mercury at present most in use for curing the Venereal Disease, are *mercurius dulcis*, *mercurius sublimatus*, and *mercurius emeticus flavus*, as internal medicines; and for external use, *mercurius precipitatus ruber*, *cinnabaris factitia*, and *mercurius sublimatus*.

Mercurius dulcis, or calomel, is the mildest of the acrid mercurial preparations: it is more in use than any of this class; and will answer very well in most cases, in which there is no necessity for the mercury to enter far into the constitution; but it is attended with the inconveniences of being very uncertain in its effects upon the fauces, and is very apt to irritate

tate the bowels, and pass off by stool; in which case it seldom enters the circulation, therefore produces merely the same effect with any other purgative medicine.

Mercurius calcinatus is a most excellent medicine, and seems to be the best of any of the acrid ones; for it is known to have cured some venereal cases, where most other mercurial preparations have failed, and probably from this cause, that it entered into smaller vessels than the other mercurial preparations did: notwithstanding this, it is often found to gently stimulate the bowels. This medicine would certainly have been by this time in more general use and estimation, if all that had been used had been genuine and well prepared; but being very troublesome to make, and expensive to buy, a great part of what has been sold has been adulterated, or a spurious preparation has been given instead of this valuable one.

Mercurius corrosivus sublimatus is the most acrid preparation of mercury of any now in use, (excepting mercurius emeticus flavus, which is very seldom now prescribed, but as an emetic): it is so powerful a medicine, that one grain is a full dose: it is usually given in a spirituous menstruum, which is generally found to be the best method of administering it; for it

it dissolves well in any spirits of proof strength, and the spirituous liquid in which it is taken tends to prevent it from disordering the stomach or bowels: it dissolves more perfectly in water saturated with a small quantity of sal ammoniac, than in spirits, or in water alone. This medicine should always be given with great caution, being very uncertain in its effects upon the fauces, and apt to disagree with many people's stomach and bowels, by causing violent and long continued pain in the stomach, or acting as an emetic, and sometimes as a purgative: therefore, when this medicine is given, it should always be begun in small doses, as the eighth, or a quarter of a grain: the quantity may afterwards be increased to a grain and a half in twenty-four hours, which is a large dose; for few but strong and healthy people can bear so much. The pain in the stomach may, in most instances, be prevented, by making the patient always eat some hard dry substance before the medicine is taken, such as a piece of biscuit, or of dry bread. It may be, and is sometimes, given in pills; but this is not an eligible method of administering so acrid and powerful a medicine, on account of the uncertainty of the quantity contained in each dose; besides its being, in this way, more apt to

to cause a pain in the stomach, which seems not to be capable of bearing, without injury, any substance so acrid as mercurius corrosivus sublimatus, unless in a dissolved and diluted state. This preparation acts principally upon the surface of the body, by increasing perspiration. The cures performed by this medicine have been observed not to be so certain as those by the mild mercurials, which is the principal reason of its being now not so much used as it was a few years ago, on being recommended by the late learned Baron Van Swieten, and other skilful practitioners, as one of the best medicines for the cure of the lues venerea. This preparation of mercury, variously disguised, forms the basis of most of the nostrums used or sold by empirics for the cure of every symptom of the Venereal Disease, and the Scurvy.

Mercurius emeticus flavus, or turbith mineral, is another of the most active preparations of mercury: it was, about half a century ago, in high estimation for the cure of the Venereal Disease, and was then given in very large doses, when intended to act as an emetic, or in smaller ones to cause a salivation. This medicine is now but very seldom prescribed in venereal, or any other cases, on account of the

the violence of its action upon the stomach and bowels.

All the mercurial preparations sometimes stimulate the bowels, causing griping pains, and passing off by stool, which should always be obviated, as such effects are contrary to the curative intent; for they prevent the mercury from entering the constitution. This may generally be effected by changing the mercurial preparation, or by joining some other medicines with it, the most effectual of which is opium, which may be given from one third of a grain to the quantity requisite; for, as it is designed to act by lessening the irritability of the intestinal canal, the dose must be such as will produce that effect: it may be given in this manner for any reasonable length of time, without injuring the constitution; for the action of this medicine depends entirely upon the irritability of the body, so that if (as in this case, where mercury irritates the bowels) there is any morbid stimulus, it seems clearly to act upon the stimulated part, for it does not produce such effects as when given to a healthy person, as a proof of which it may be remarked, that, in some cases, a person may take much more, even to relieve pain, without producing any tendency to sleeping, than

than would in a state of health cause a profound sleep. It is probable, that mercury sometimes acts as a purgative, from meeting with an acid in the stomach, because alkaline salts, calcareous earth, or soap, will, in many cases, prevent this effect: and on this principle, the cause of mercurials purging, when mixed with a vegetable acid in the stomach, such as vinegar, or lemon-juice, is accounted for. Cordial medicines, also camphire, will often cause mercurials to sit easy upon the stomach, and prevent them from irritating the bowels.

All the preparations of mercury, when they cure the Venereal Disease by affecting the fauces, seem to act exactly in the same way, as appears from the following observations.— Every mercurial, which is capable of curing the Venereal Disease, is soluble in the juices of the human body: they will all salivate; and when they do, the metal is in a dissolved state in the saliva, which is proved to an absolute demonstration, by the experiment of making a person who is in a salivation hold a piece of gold in his mouth for about half an hour, in which time it will usually be tinged white.

Crude mercury, held in the mouth for a certain time, may be tasted; which is owing

to a part of it being dissolved in the saliva and mucus of the mouth ; because it has no perceptible taste while in a fluid state, that is, not till its globules or particles are minutely divided, as is the case when held long in the mouth. Every preparation of mercury has the same taste as crude mercury has.

The taste in the mouth in a salivation is certainly caused by the mercury being in a dissolved state in the saliva, for it is exactly the same as that of crude mercury ; and this taste is always the same in a salivation caused by any mercurial preparation.

Mercury has, for at least a century, been, and is now, known by all skilful practitioners of the healing art, to be the only medicine which will cure the Venereal Disease : there have, however, always been some empirics who have pretended to cure this disorder without mercury ; the fallacy of which pretences will, I hope, be proved in the following pages.

The manner in which this metal cures the Venereal Disease has been, till very lately, greatly misunderstood : for the most common theories were, that it cured by the evacuations which it produced ; and that, in salivation, the venereal virus was discharged with the saliva. The first of these opinions is shewn to be

be erroneous, from observing, that no evacuations, however great or long continued, if produced by any other medicines, or by any other disease, will cure the lues venerea ; for, in a Pox accompanied with a Consumption, the Venereal Disease is never cured by the other, though the patient is always in danger of dying; and, in many of these cases, actually dies of inanition, which is the same effect as is produced by a course of evacuating medicines; though in a much greater degree. The second supposition is proved to be false, by its being known that no other kind of salivation, whether from a disease, or medicinal course, will cure the Venereal Disorder ; and also, that a ptyalism caused by one or two doses of mercury, either internally or externally used, will not radically cure the disease, even though the spitting should continue for two months, or any length of time : besides these reasons, the idea of the venereal poison being discharged with the saliva seems an absurd one, being unsupported by any facts, experiments, or rational arguments.

The method in which mercury cures this disease, is not yet known ; but, from what has been said already, it appears, that it is not by producing any evacuations ; nor is it by its

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weight ; for, if it was, any medicine, equally ponderous, would do the same ; but none will, not even gold, which is much heavier than mercury. It is said, that mercury cures this disease on the principle of its acting as an antidote upon the venereal virus ; but this does not seem to be the case, because the venereal poison is not destroyed by the application of mercury to the diseased parts, as hath been often proved by venereal ulcers, and other venereal symptoms, being cured by applying mercury to the diseased parts, when the disorder has always shewn itself in some other, or the same place : this circumstance tends strongly to prove, that it is not capable of destroying the venereal virus by being applied to it ; and therefore, that it does not act upon the venereal virus as an antidote. The most rational theory seems to be, that it cures by raising in the constitution such a peculiar or specific irritation as is capable of destroying the venereal virus : but mere irritation alone is not adequate to this purpose ; for no other stimulus (at present known), however violent or long continued, will cure the disease ; nor will any other stimulating medicines, nor even any morbid irritation. Neither a fever, nor any other disease, has ever been known to cure a constitutional

tional lues venerea ; though it may be remarked, that a fever usually produces an amendment of the venereal symptoms, and, in some instances, even causes them entirely to disappear for some time, but never effects a lasting cure. The general, and almost constant, action of mercury upon the body is, to increase its irritability, which makes it more disposed to resist every injury inflicted on it : on this principle, it has been observed, that a person who is taking mercury cannot bear so strong an electric shock as at another time, which has therefore been prescribed, with propriety, as an assistant in other diseases, where electricity has been the mode used for a cure : on the same principle, it is found to be peculiarly injurious in the hæmoptœ, and some other disorders : and it seems be on the same theory, that it is apt, in gouty people, to bring on a fit of that distemper.*

The other usual effect of mercury is, to cause an increase of the secretions in general ; but more particularly the saliva, insensible perspiration, sweat, the succus pancreaticus, and succus

* May not a hint be taken from this circumstance, of the propriety of trying a gentle course of mercury in those cases in which the object is, to bring on a fit of the gout ?

succus intestinalis, and making the breath smell,

The other symptoms produced by mercury shall be briefly treated upon, as accidental circumstances: the principal of which are, violent swelling and inflammation of the fauces, often accompanied with a sloughy state of the inside of the cheeks, which, in some cases, happens in so violent a degree, as to be properly styled a mortification; excessive swelling of the tongue, with deep ulcers; immobility in the joint of the lower jaw; diarrhœa, and dysentery; profuse sweats, and general debility.

Swelling and inflammation of the fauces is, in most instances, caused by either too large a quantity of mercury being introduced into the constitution, or catching cold during a mercurial course. The cure must be effected by treating the complaint as a common inflammation; the use of mercury must be immediately desisted from; if any mercurial ointment remains upon the skin, it must be washed off; and the patient's clothes, if greased with the ointment, must be changed for clean ones. The most useful remedies for the cure, are cooling purges, warm relaxing applications to the parts, confinement in bed in a warm room, keeping

keeping the head, face, throat, and neck, warm, by covering them with flannels; and venæsection, if necessary, should be freely used. For removing the floughs, relaxing or detergent applications may be used. If the parts mortify, emollients should be applied warm to the parts, and the Peruvian bark given in as large quantities as the patient's stomach and bowels will bear; but if there are, during a mortification, clear symptoms of inflammation, the bark is improper, and the disease must be treated as an inflammatory one.

The next accident attending the use of mercury, is swelling of the tongue, accompanied with deep ulcers in it. This is to be treated as a true inflammation; therefore the same mode of cure is to be pursued in this, as in the former complaint. The ulcers which happen in some of these inflammations, being in general caused by pressure of the tongue against the teeth, seldom require any particular treatment, except removing such sharp or jagged parts of them, as may have caused any of the ulcers.

Immobility in the joint of the lower jaw is another, but not so common an accident as the last; seldom occurring but towards the termination of a profuse and long continued ptyalism;

ptyalism: it seems always to happen in the closed state of the jaws; it is therefore not improbable, that it is caused by a continued involuntary action of the muscles which close the lower jaw, superior in force to what the muscles which open it are capable of overcoming. The cure is to be attempted, first, by treating the complaint as an inflammation, using the same remedies as were advised for inflammation of the fauces. The next curative intention is, to restore the action of the two joints; for which purpose, it is generally necessary to open the mouth, by forcing in between the teeth of the upper and lower jaws some proper solid substance, made in the form of a wedge; cork or wood are usually used for this purpose: such a wedge must be kept in almost constantly in the day time, otherwise, the same disposition still remaining, the mere forcing the mouth open would be ineffectual. If, as is sometimes the case, the mouth is so much closed that it is very difficult for the patient to get a sufficient quantity of nourishment into it, a tooth, or even two, must be taken out, to make an opening by which nutrient liquids may be received.

The diarrhoea and dysentery are other accidents sometimes attendant upon a mercurial course.

course. These require the same treatment as when they happen from any other cause, but with this difference, that, in this case, the discharge by stool may be safely checked by the free use of opium. It should always be observed, that the skin is to be thoroughly cleansed from any mercurial application ; these complaints being caused by the mercury irritating the bowels, the mercurial absorption would probably continue while any of it remained on the skin.

Profuse sweats are also another very disagreeable consequence of mercury, because they weaken the patient much. To obviate this effect, the first step to be taken is, to lessen the doses of mercury, to change the preparation, or to desist entirely from it, if needful ; afterwards a proper course of bracing medicines, and country air ; or the Peruvian bark, and any other alcaline bracers, may be properly prescribed during the mercurial course. Another circumstance necessary in this case, is, that the patient's bed-clothes be not thicker than is necessary for warmth ; for these night sweats may be kept up by this alone.

General debility is an accident attendant upon taking of mercury, which but seldom occurs, unless caused by some great evacuations

tions. The Peruvian bark is the grand remedy for this complaint; country air, and leaving off all mercurials for a time, may also be necessary.

Having made this digression concerning the use of mercury, I now proceed to the cure of chancres.

The common methods of cure may be divided into two: the first is, by introducing a sufficient quantity of mercury into the constitution; the other is, by assisting the mercurial course with topical applications to the part.

With regard to the first method, it was formerly the common practice to put the patient under such a course of mercury as produced a violent discharge from the body, which was usually effected, either by drastic mercurial purgatives, vomits of turbith mineral, or by a copious salivation; but it is now certain, that chancres may always be cured without any of these violent remedies, which is a fact so well known, that there are now very few patients who would submit to be confined for the cure of chancres; instead of this, it is generally found sufficient to introduce such a quantity of mercury into the constitution as will cause only a slight salivation; and, in many cases, the cure may be wrought without

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the mercury's producing any apparent effects. Each of these methods has been advised, on the idea, that in all cases of this kind the Venereal Disease is in the constitution; but we have already endeavoured to prove, that this venereal symptom is a local disease; and, admitting this theory, it follows, that neither salivation, nor any of the other violent effects of mercury, can ever be necessary in curing chancres.*

The cure of chancres may be performed without confinement, if the patient is in good health, by mercury alone: the quantity must be proportioned to the strength of the patient's constitution, but principally to its power of bearing mercury; for some strong constitutions will bear a great quantity without being at all irritated by it, and others, which appear in every respect to be equally strong and healthy, cannot bear above a third part, without its producing great effects upon them. The same observation, on the action of mercury, is appli-

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* The doses of mercury given by our forefathers were, in general, more than double what they now are; for example, fifteen grains of calomel was spoken of as a common dose: by which practice many constitutions were irreparably weakened, and some people even killed, by its immediate violent effects.

cable to every kind of constitution ; therefore some weak people will bear more mercury than other very strong ones. What this tendency in the constitution to be affected by this metal is owing to, is not yet known ; but it occurs more frequently in the irritable habit of body, than in any other peculiarity of constitution. The irritable habit is not peculiar to either the athletic, or weak frame of body. Most people who are afflicted with the acute gout, rheumatism, and some species of scurvy ; also those of the greatest sense, and of passionate tempers, are, in general, of an irritable constitution. Another cause why mercury affects some people much sooner than others, I imagine to be, that it dissolves easier in some people's bodies than in others, owing probably to some such peculiarity in the absorbent system, or its contained fluid, as is favourable to the dissolving of mercury : as a farther proof of which, it may be remarked, that those who are most easy to be salivated, are the soonest cured of the Venereal Disease ; and, on the contrary, that there are some men, as well as women, who are so inapt to be affected by mercury, that it is almost impossible to salivate them, and equally difficult to cure them. Instances of this constitutional inaptitude to be affected by mer-

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cury, are not very uncommon ; one of which occurred to me in the Magdalen-house, in an exceeding strong healthy young woman : she rubbed in a dram of strong mercurial ointment, night and morning, for six weeks, and during one half of that time, took two grains of calomel night and morning ; and during the remainder, took a grain and a half of corrosive sublimate daily ; by which she was cured of some bad chancres ; and this great quantity of mercury produced no apparent effect upon her : she had been in the Lock hospital the year before, where she had used a great quantity of mercury with the same effect. It is somewhat remarkable, that this woman had, every spring, an eruption greatly resembling the leprosy, and which was not at all affected by the mercury. In some of these cases, it may be adviseable to introduce the mercury by fumigating the whole surface of the body, excepting the head ; for, in this way, a greater quantity of mercury may be introduced into the constitution, in a more minutely dissolved state, than either in a solid or a fluid vehicle. However, though some idea may be formed of the proper dose of mercury, by knowing its effects upon the patient at a former time, yet no certain rule can be learnt from this, because the constitu-

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tion may have altered its tendency to be affected by this metal. Men usually bear mercury better than women. Some people are less stimulated by mercury after having often gone through mercurial courses; and, on the contrary, others are, by the use of that metal, brought into so irritable a state, that they cannot bear so large doses as before such a change in their constitutions took place. From all these circumstances then, it appears, that it should be a constant rule to begin with small doses of mercury, and afterwards increase them so as to produce some symptom, shewing that it is in the body in a dissolved state.

This method of curing chancres without salivation, is what is called an alterative mercurial course; by which term is meant, such a one as produces no apparent effect upon the constitution. From what has been said, it must appear, that the quantity of mercury necessary for this purpose will vary according to the patient's constitution; and that the preparation to be chosen for this purpose, must be that which produces the least apparent effect upon the patient.

This method of cure is to be performed by introducing into, and keeping in the body, a certain quantity of mercury in a dissolved state; which

which course is to be continued till a cure is completed.. In the cure of chancres, the ulcer must be perfectly healed, and the surrounding hardness entirely dispersed ; for it must be remembered, that the hardened swellings on which chancres are seated, are as true venereal symptoms as the ulcers are, and not the simple effects of inflammation ; so that from them the Venereal Disease may be received into the constitution, and every symptom of its worst state be thereby produced. The only proof yet known of mercury being in a dissolved state in the human body, is, by its producing some apparent effects ; the first of which often is, an exudation of the metal through the skin, which is known by its changing the appearance or colour of metallic substances carried about by the patient ; making silver resemble pewter, and gold look like silver : the next effect is, most commonly, a copper-like taste in the mouth every morning ; this, when it increases, is accompanied with a peculiar smell of the breath, different from that symptom when owing to any other cause : this is succeeded by a soreness of the gums, which are then swelled, and turn whitish at their edges ; and when this affection of the gums increases, the salivary glands become affected, and a salivation

vation then ensues. The other effects of mercury are, causing an increased secretion of sweat and urine: but when these last effects of mercury increase, the constitution becomes weakened, or a tendency to inflammation in the kidneys is produced; and then it is proper to join other medicines with the mercurials, to lessen the doses of mercury, or to leave it off entirely, till these symptoms are removed. The curative intent then is, to introduce such a quantity of mercury into the patient's habit of body, as shall be sufficient to shew, that it is in a dissolved state, and not to salivate, or produce any other effects upon the constitution; which course is to be continued till the chancre is cured. For this purpose, one of the mild preparations of mercury should be given internally; and this, in my opinion, is preferable to the using mercurial ointment, which is not more effectual, but certainly more inconvenient, and therefore need never be advised, excepting that the patient is of such a constitution as not to be able to take the quantity necessary.

The next subject to be considered is, the management of the constitution during a mercurial course: with regard to which, general rules only can be given; for so many changes

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may happen in it during this time, that it would be too tedious to speak upon every particular circumstance. Whilst there is either a mercurial exudation through the pores of the skin, the copper-like taste in the mouth, mercurial smelling breath, or soreness of the gums, the same quantity of mercury should be continued; but it may be either increased or diminished, so as to preserve these its gentlest effects, by which it shews itself to be in a dissolved state: if a spitting comes on, it may be checked by leaving off the mercury, and by giving a cathartic or two; when sweats are the consequence, if the patient wears warmer clothes than usual, some of them should be left off; for clothing lightly by night, as well as by day, will sometimes effectually remove this symptom; a case of which kind happened to a patient, whom I directed to lie every night, during the course, which continued two months, with only a sheet over him; and this alone, without medicines, answered the desired effect. It may be necessary also, in this state, to change the preparation of mercury; for some are apt to act upon the perspiratory organs, particularly mercurius sublimatus: and, as hath been already remarked, they are all apt to vary in their effects on different people, so that

that it is possible for a mild preparation to produce this effect, when an acrid one will not, or even, that every mild one will have this effect, and every acrid one will not: it is therefore certainly always adviseable to try another mercurial, instead of that which produced the sweats, before any other alteration is made, or other medicine prescribed. It may also be necessary to administer other medicines in order to check the sweats: these should be tonics, or astringents. Of the first kind, the Peruvian bark claims our greatest attention: acids are not adviseable, being apt to purge the patient, by uniting with the mercury in the stomach and bowels. The same method of treatment is to be adopted when it acts upon the kidneys, producing an increased secretion of urine. In a gentle mercurial course, confinement to the house is not necessary; for it has been proved by experiments, that being exposed to the air in the ordinary way, is not attended with any danger in such a mercurial course; nor will it prevent the mercury from doing all which is needful for the safe cure of this venereal symptom. An abstemious diet is also recommended by many authors as a necessary assistant to a mercurial course; but no satisfactory reasons have been given for this; and experimental

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obſervations prove, that a person who is kept on ſuch a diet as puddings, bread, broths, and ſuch kind of food, refraining from animal ſubſtances, will not, from that circumstance, be cured of a venereal complaint in leſs time than another who eats a hearty meal of animal flesh every day; and, if a low diet is not neceſſary in the cure, it ſhould not be advised, leſt the patient's conſtitution ſhould be weakened by it, which might retard the cure, by rendering the body incapable of bearing the quantity of mercury neceſſary for that purpose, and might bring the patient into ſuch a debilitated ſtate, as would make the cure very difficult. The diet then ſhould be the ſame as in a ſtate of health, excepting that neither acids nor vegetables muſt be taken into the ſtomach ſo as to unite with the mercury; nor muſt they be al- lowed at all, if there is a tendency to purging. The preſerving a comfortable warmth of the ſkin, by a proper quantity of clothing, is neceſſary; and drinking a pint or two of any di- luting liquor warm, every day, is an affiſtant to the action of the mercury.

I have avoided ſaying any thing on the treat- ment of the ulcer, because, in this method of cure, the whole dependence is upon the action of mercury; but keeping the part affected clean

by washing or fomenting it once or twice a day with warm water, is certainly useful.

Having said thus much upon the present most approved methods of curing chancres, I now beg leave to express my doubts concerning the necessity of affecting the constitution at all by mercury for the cure of chancres. I have known many people cured without any mercurial effects being produced on the body; which gave me the first hint of the disease not being in the constitution, because I had remarked, and it is certainly a fact, that mercury does very little, if any service in the constitutional state of the Venereal Disease, unless it produces some of its apparent effects upon the body.

The other method of curing chancres, by assisting the mercurial course with proper surgical applications to the sores, is recommended by most authors on this subject. Many and different applications are advised: for example, some are of opinion that a chancre should be treated as a common benign ulcer; others advise mercurial applications, on the idea of their power of destroying the venereal virus. As to the common ointments which are used to other ulcers, they have scarcely any effect upon chancres: and as to mercurial applications,

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their effects vary greatly ; for an acrid preparation will stimulate ; a mild one will relax the sore : and it seems to me, that when a mercurial application irritates a sore much, it does not act as mercury, because the irritation produced on its surface will prevent the solution or absorption of the mercurial particles.

There are three ways of applying mercury to chancres : the first is, in a solid form ; the second is, by suspending it in a proper vehicle ; the third, by dissolving it into a vapour by fire. The first method is not so much in use now as formerly, because the preparations which were applied, often acted as a caustic, or escharotic, when designed to act as a mild mercurial : they may serve however as digestives, or cleansers of chancres. Mercury is capable of being taken into the constitution in this way ; an instance of which occurred in the London hospital, nine years ago, in a woman whose breast had been amputated ; and when the wound was healing, it was sprinkled every day with mercurius præcipitatus ruber : when this had been repeated seven days successively, a salivation came on, which gradually disappeared in a week, on the mercurial application being desisted from ; and the ptyalism, which was a true mercurial one, was brought on a

second time by a repetition of the same application.

The next method of applying mercury, by suspending it in a proper vehicle, may be either in the form of an ointment, cerate, or lotion. The ointments used for this purpose are mercurial ointment, mercurial cerate, or red precipitate of mercury or calomel mixt with lard, or with any kind of mild ointment. The chief objection to this method of applying mercury is, that the unctuous substance, in which the mercurial preparation is suspended, does not unite readily with the matter discharged from the chancre, which therefore usually acts as an intermediate fluid, between the ulcer and the unguent, preventing the mercury from being applied to the ulcer: but when mercury is applied in the form of a lotion, the common preparation is corrosive sublimate dissolved in water, in the proportion of about half a grain to an ounce of water. Distilled water is however better for this purpose than common water: if a stronger solution of mercury is required, it may be easily had by saturating the water with a few grains of sal ammoniac. Calomel is sometimes used in this way; but it does not unite so well with water. This mode of using mercury is much more efficacious

efficacious than mercurial unguents, because the watery vehicle, uniting better with the matter of the sore, affords greater certainty of the mercury being actually applied to its surface.

The third mode of using mercury to chancres is by fumigation. This is done by pouring some solid preparation of mercury, either upon burning coals, or on an heated iron, and conveying the fume of the burnt mercury to the chancre, through a funnel: factitious cinnabar has been generally used for this purpose; and most authors assert, that warm aromatic gummy substances, burnt with the mercury, assist its action. This is the most effectual method of applying mercury to an ulcer, because there is more certainty of its being actually applied to its whole surface, and it will be more likely to penetrate into its smallest absorbent vessels. This process is proper for chancres which are of a very malignant disposition, have much surrounding hardness, erode deeply into, or spread wide on, the part where seated; and in many such cases it is certainly of very great utility: but it should never be advised in common venereal sores, being so apt to cause them to heal suddenly, and thereby throw the disease into the constitution; some instances of which I have seen. These observations are applicable to all cases

cases of ulcers, where a mercurial application is the object required.

Another method of treating chancres, is by applying caustic to their ulcerated surfaces. This has lately come into some repute, being supposed to destroy the infected part, and by that means to expedite the cure: but it is an ancient practice revived, being treated on by Ambrose Parey, in his chirurgical works, two hundred years ago: The method is this: the part is to be touched with such a caustic as will produce a slough upon its surface; as soon as this slough comes off, the caustic application is to be repeated, and this process is to be pursued till the ulcer has lost its venereal appearance. If this method is successful, the sore will become of a more benign nature, after the casting off of every slough. The causticum lunare is, I think, the best for this purpose, because it is so solid that it may be cut into any form, and is not apt to liquify on being wetted, therefore less liable to spread beyond the part where applied, than any other caustic. The principle on which this practice is recommended, (as has been already said) is to destroy that part of the ulcer which is truly venereal: therefore it behoves us to be strictly attentive to the action of the caustic; to see that it produces

duces a slough. In some cases, it is necessary to use a more active one than the causticum lunare; and we must be guided in our choice by attending to their effects upon the chancre. A clear idea should be had of this fact, viz. that a caustic not powerful enough to cauterise the surface of an ulcer, will act as an astringent. I have seen four cases of chancres to which lunar caustic was applied, and in which no slough was produced: they each healed in about nine days, and symptoms of the constitutional lues venerea appeared immediately afterwards; from which circumstance it is highly probable, the caustic, by acting as an astringent, caused the chancres to heal so soon, and the constitutional lues to ensue. The same effect may also happen from the caustic not being skilfully prepared, or having lost its strength by being long exposed to the air, or wetted; for a weakened, or a diluted caustic, will act either as an escharotic, or an astringent. Having said so much in favour of the practice of applying caustics to chancres, lest it should be inferred that they may be cured by local applications alone, I will, in as short a compass as possible, describe a mode of cure, which appears to me to be the most safe and expeditious of any.

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A chancre, if not accompanied with much inflammation of the surrounding part, should, at its first appearance, have its whole surface touched with such a caustic as will produce a thin slough on the whole ulcerated surface. The causticum lunare will, in most cases, have the desired effect, and is preferable to most others, for the reasons before mentioned. The ulcer should then be dressed with fine dry lint, which is preferable to any unctuous dressing, because it will keep better on the part. On the next day, if the caustic has done its office, the sore will be covered with a white slough, or one will come off with the lint. The caustic must be repeated daily, (if the slough comes off so often) till the chancre assumes the appearance of a benign healing ulcer, or is much sunk below the surface of the surrounding edge. This mode of treatment will, in many cases, much expedite the cure, but is not always successful; for, in some, the inflammation of the part on which the ulcers are situated continues to increase, and they do not mend in their appearance. When this happens, it may be rationally imagined, that the venereal virus contaminates more of the ulcer than the caustic destroys. In this situation it seems probable, that, if a caustic was used which was powerful

powerful enough to destroy as much of the ulcer as is infected with the venereal virus, the advantages expected would be gained: in such cases, the strength of the caustics used should be gradually increased. The lapis septicus is the strongest of any of the solid caustics. But from experience I am certain, that this practice will not be successful in all cases, and, I think, from this cause, that there are some chancres which are rendered more malignant by every irritating application.*

But, as chancres cannot be safely cured without a mercurial course of medicines, at least I cannot from my own experiments assert that they may; therefore such a mercurial course should be begun at their first appearance, as was prescribed for their cure by internals alone, which should be persevered in till the chancre is healed, and the surrounding hardness quite dispersed: and if, as sometimes happens, the chancres get well in less than a month, the mercurial course should be continued for about five weeks; for there is always great danger of a constitutional lues being produced.

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* On the above theory, two incipient buboes were cut out of a man's groin by a Surgeon, in 1776: the sores became very large, spreading, and, to the best of my judgement, venereal ulcers.

by a chancre badly treated; and from practical observations it appears, that a mercurial course will prevent such effect from taking place. By this method all chancres may be cured, if the patient is otherwise in good health, and the part where they are seated does not inflame so as to prevent the application of the caustic: the principal causes of which are, either a consumptive or gouty habit of body, any visceral disease, in which mercury is known to be hurtful, or a disposition in the part to spread into a large ulcer, or to mortify. These diseases are only to be considered as an impediment to the cure, by preventing the use of the proper doses of mercury.

In any of these situations, proper medicines for curing the other disease should be joined with the mercurial course, and such only administered as will not, by uniting with the mercury, cause it to irritate the intestines. Some authors advise, that the constitutional complaint should be cured before a mercurial course is entered upon; but this practice should never be followed, unless the patient's health is in such a state as that the use of mercury would endanger the loss of life; for, if the chancres heal before the mercurial course is commenced, a constitutional lues venerea would

probably ensue, which would require a much longer and more powerful mercurial course.

The next circumstance, of a tendency in the chancr to spread to a large size, occurs most often in people of a scorbutic habit of body, or whose juices are in such a state, that wounds or sores of any kind become of a bad disposition, and are with difficulty brought into a healing state. As soon as this disposition takes place, if it is accompanied with feverish symptoms, an antiphlogistic course is to be substituted instead of the mercurial one: if there is no fever, the Peruvian bark in full and frequent doses will generally have the desired effect; but if the ulcer still retains much of the venereal aspect, the bark may be given with the mercury.

In the other state, that is, a tendency to mortification, the mercurial course must be immediately desisted from, and the disease treated skilfully, according to its present symptoms, without any regard being had to its having arisen from a venereal cause. It is farther necessary to remark, that mortifications arise from various causes, being sometimes owing to debility, but most often to inflammation: in the former case, a free use of the bark, and cordials, and in the other, cooling and sedative

remedies.

remedies, may be judiciously advised. In the ulcerative state, such dressings should be used to the part, as give most ease: an emollient poultice should be first tried; and if that has not the desired effect, I would advise the use of an ointment composed of equal parts of opium and hog's-lard, or any other proper substance for forming it into an ointment, or creme; such an application being an admirably good one in most cases of spreading ulcers. In the mortified state, emollient poultices will in general do all the service that can be expected from topical remedies; for stimulating applications do much harm in most mortifications. By such methods, most chancres may be cured, though it must be allowed that there are some which, from bad treatment, virulence of the disease, or other circumstances, are exceedingly difficult to be brought into a healing state, and which resist the action of the remedies last mentioned: in such cases, hemlock or arsenic may be used, both internally and externally; and mercurial fumigations are particularly useful.

The next subject of consideration is, the immediate consequential symptoms arising from chancres: the most common of which are, the **Bubo**, **Phymosis**, and **Paraphymosis**, in men; and

and Swelling of the Labia pudendi, in women : the other, less frequent symptoms, are Ulcers of the Tonsils, the Lips, Tongue, or inside of the Mouth, Verrucæ, and Condylomata, Warts, Eruptions on the whole surface of the body, and Ulcers on the part where the chancres had been seated. Some one of these symptoms will usually ensue from chancres unskillfully treated ; but, in some cases, the disease attacks other parts of the body, which are less susceptible of the action of the venereal virus ; as the Periosteum with Nodes, the Bones with Nocturnal Pains, and Caries.

These are the symptoms most commonly caused by chancres when they produce any other disease : and I now proceed to make a few observations upon each of them, in the order in which they are here ranged.

A Bubo is an inflammation of one or more of the lymphatic glands in any part of the body. The proper term is, a Venereal Bubo, because there are other kinds, as the Critical bubo arising from a fever, or the Pestilential one from the plague : this distinction however is unnecessary in this work, as there is no probability of this kind of bubo being taken for any but a venereal one. In the former part of this work I have endeavoured to prove, that

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the matter discharged from a chancre is venereal, and will, if applied to a secretory surface, or a wounded part, produce the Venereal Disease. It is also, I think, as certain, that such matter absorbed, will produce some venereal symptom, (unless such a quantity of mercury is in the body, as to prevent its action) of which a bubo furnishes us with the clearest proof, both from the time when it makes its appearance, and from its being always seated in the lymphatic glands which are nearest to the chancre, in the course of the circulation from thence to the thoracic duct.

But it is an extraordinary fact, that it never passes through one set of glands, and then produces its effects upon another gland ; the reason of which is not known. The most probable conjecture seems to be, that the matter, in order to cause an inflammation in a lymphatic gland, must be possessed of a certain degree of virulence, which it possesses in the chancre, but loses by being diluted with the lymphatic fluid, in its passage from one gland to another.

Another remarkable circumstance is, that matter absorbed from a bubo never causes the same disease in the next set of glands beyond the diseased one, in the course of the lymphatic

phatic vessels from thence to the heart: if this was not so, the disease would often be fatal; by the number of them bringing the patient into a consumption, or their situation being out of the reach of surgical aid. This fact is the more extraordinary, because it has been proved by experiments, that the matter from a bubo is venereal, and will communicate the disease; accidental proofs of which have arisen from such matter having been applied to a Surgeon's finger or hand, when the wound always becomes a venereal sore, or chancre; and a bubo in the axilla is as likely to happen from it, as one in the groin is from a chancre on the genitals. But, although a bubo is not capable of causing an abscess in the lymphatic vessels, or glands, at any distance from it, yet it has some such power on those which are contiguous to the diseased one; for a second, and sometimes a third bubo will arise near the first, during its healing, or before a cure is perfected; of which I have seen several instances. These secondary buboes (as they may be called) seem not to be endued with so much venereal virulence as the primary one; and, from cases which I have seen, I think it probable, that some of them are not venereal, but caused

caused merely by the inflammation excited in the part by the first abscess.

The methods of curing buboes are two : the first is, by dispersing them ; the other is, by bringing them to suppuration. The mode of repelling them is, by applying discussing remedies to the swollen part, and administering such internal medicines as are proper in other cases of local inflammations. Mercurial ointment is the most powerful discutient in these cases. The most common method is, to rub the ointment in upon the part ; but as, from late discoveries, the course of the lymphatic vessels which pass through the glands of the groin, is found to be along the inside of the thigh, the most judicious and effectual way of using mercurial ointment for this purpose is, by having it rubbed into the inside of the thigh ; by which the mercury is likely to pass through the diseased gland, in its passage to the thoracic duct ; whereas, in the other manner, but a very small proportion of the mercury passes into the tumor, besides that the act of rubbing it on the part often does harm by giving pain. The best applications to the tumor are, the emplastrum mercuriale, emplastrum è sapone, or a poultice of a solution of saccharum saturni in water,

and

and bread or linseed powder; and that application is to be preferred, which gives most ease. Taking blood from the part by leeches, will also be found a most effectual remedy in some few cases, where the skin which covers the tumor is much inflamed.

The medicinal course should be, gentle cathartics, such as sal glauberi, manna, or infusio sennæ. A moderate dose of one of these should be given every second or third day. Venæflection should also be used, if the patient is feverish. Emetics seem to have the most powerful effect in causing the absorption of matter, of any internal medicine; therefore, in obstinate cases, and in all those in which we are particularly desirous to prevent a suppuration, a moderately active emetic should be administered as often as the patient can bear it. Wine, spirits, and all heating and high-seasoned food, should be forbid. Rest, and an easy posture of the part, are also great assistants in promoting the resolution of these tumors.

The other method of curing buboes is, by causing them to suppurate. This being an act performed by the constitution, the object of Surgery is, to assist nature, by keeping the part warm, and gently stimulated; which purposes are well effected by the application of a

plaister of diachylon cum gummis, which is, in general, preferable to any poultices, being equally effectual, and more easily kept on the part. During the maturation of a bubo, it is a matter of doubt, whether mercurial medicines ought to be used, or not. If the abscess makes a proper progress to suppuration, mercurials should be desisted from till the matter is let out: but, if the maturation goes on slowly, then some active mercurial medicine should be prescribed, in such small doses as not to excite any evacuation from the constitution; for, given in this way, it is a most efficacious remedy for promoting the maturation of all kinds of abscesses. The diet should be the same as in health; and, if the suppuration is slow in its progress, a quart of porter, or a pint of wine, should be taken every day. It is hardly necessary to add, that mercury, used in such quantities as to salivate, or pass off by the intestines, will tend to prevent the suppuration; which it does in two ways, first by the evacuations it produces, and next by destroying or weakening the action of the venereal virus.

When the whole external surface of the tumor is soft, and become so thin that the fluctuation of the contained matter may be plainly

plainly felt, and the surrounding hardness has subsided, it is in a proper state to be opened ; the methods of doing which are, either by caustic, or incision. The most common method is, by applying a soft caustic on the whole surface which covers the matter. The causticum commune fortius is the best for this purpose : before you apply it, it should be softened with soap, then spread on a piece of lint, and a thick adhesive plaster applied round the part which is to be cauterised, to prevent it from acting on any other but that which covers the matter. The time necessary for the caustic to lie on, will be according to the thickness of the part which is to be formed into an eschar. When the caustic is removed, the eschar should be punctured for the discharge of the matter, and then dressed with warm emollient poultices, or pledges of mild digestive ointments, which should be continued till the eschar casts off, and the ulcer is in a healing state. It is the practice of some Surgeons, to cut away the eschar as soon as the caustic is removed ; but this is needless, as it will not expedite the cure, nor be in any way a preservative of the constitution against the absorption of venereal matter ; and, in fact, is improper, because, by exposing the inside of the

the abscess to the action of the dressings and air, much unnecessary pain is caused, from its being so extremely tender to the touch.

The other method of opening buboes is, by incision: this may be, in general, performed with one stroke of an abscess-lancet: the tumor is to be opened its whole length, and in its longest direction; in which operation it is always necessary to attend to the situation of the inguinal artery, because, in some cases, it is almost in contact with the matter; and then, unless it was skilfully performed, and the patient properly confined during the time, there would be great danger of committing a fatal error, in opening the artery; accidents of which kind have, I believe, happened. Another caution necessary in this way of opening buboes, is to stop the hæmorrhage, which often happens from some small branch of an artery unavoidably cut in making the incision; for, as such arise from the inguinal trunk, they are apt to throw out a great quantity of blood: this therefore should always be done before we leave the patient, either by dry lint and pressure, prepared dried sponge, or needle and ligature; the necessity of which is proved by this case.—A Gentleman had a bubo opened by incision at eleven o'clock in the forenoon;

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the wound was dressed with dry lint, and the hæmorrhage thereby stopped; in the evening he was in company in a warm room, when he suddenly became pale, fainted, and fell from his seat; as soon as he recovered, on examining the bubo, he found near a quart of blood in his breeches, and it was then issuing freely from a small artery, which was immediately secured by needle and ligature. Another instance of this kind happened to a Gentleman in London, to whom I was called:—a deep-seated bubo had been opened in his groin a few hours before, and the blood was then flowing so freely from a large branch of an artery, that, if it had continued half an hour in that state, it would probably have proved fatal: I took up the bleeding vessel by needle and ligature, which stopped the hæmorrhage; but this patient did not recover the loss of blood in two months, having been but lately arrived from the East-Indies, in a very relaxed state of health. The method of opening bубoes by incision is not now so much in use as formerly, as it was often found, that the healing of the wound was attended with much difficulty, owing to its lips becoming callous, or so tucked in, and united to the cavity of the ulcer, as to render another painful operation

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sometimes necessary, that is, cutting off the lips with a scalpel, or crooked scissars. The caustic method is free from these objections, from its destroying the parts which cause the last-mentioned accidents.

Buboes, when opened either by incision or caustic, are subject also to the following accidents. The first is a sudden change of the ulcer from an healing state to a phagedænic sore, with jagged hard lips: for this, the Peruvian bark is the best remedy; and the mercurial course may be either continued or left off, as experience will direct; it being in some useful, in others injurious. This accident is most liable to occur in buboes which have been opened by incision.

Another change, after they are in a healing state, is, to spread into a large ill-conditioned sore, having a smooth ungranulated surface, of a livid colour: this change is in some cases very sudden, happening even in twenty-four hours, and without pain. The Peruvian bark, given in full doses, is the grand remedy to be depended upon in these cases; and cooling medicines, cordials, acids, or opiates, may be given with the bark.

The cause of this alteration in the ulcer can seldom be known with certainty; but if

if it continues spreading, the mercurial course must be immediately left off; for it should ever be remembered, that a perseverance in the use of mercury is a dangerous experiment, and has proved fatal in many cases of this kind: one unhappy instance of which I was a witness to, in a strong young man, who was in other respects in good health, and died in consequence of the wound spreading so as to cover part of his thigh and abdomen; whereas, from several cases of the same kind, which I have seen cured by bark and cordials, without mercury, I have no doubt but that this patient's life might have been saved by the same kind of treatment. Most of these cases soon yield to the bark, the ulcer contracting its size, and assuming a healing disposition: in some, however, the sore continues spreading for several days, notwithstanding the bark and other proper medicines are given: but even in such, I disapprove of the use of mercury; for it does not seem to me to be of any service, and is known from experience generally to do much injury. This change seems not to arise from a venereal cause, but more probably from either a putrid or scorbutic disposition, an impoverished state of blood, or the effects of mercury and confinement. I have seen

seen both methods fairly tried, and never knew any good done by mercury, but generally so much harm that the sore continued spreading till the mercurial course was entirely desisted from ; but the other mode of treating this complaint seldom fails of producing an apparent change for the better within a few days. Some of these however are much more obstinate than others, the ulcer continuing to spread, notwithstanding the judicious use of the bark assisted by any other medicines. In such cases, I would advise that the ulcer be dressed with opium, which may be used either in a fluid form, by making a strong solution of it in water, and applying lint wetted with it to the part ; or it may be spread upon lint, (being first softened with a few drops of any essential oil) and used as a cerate, formed by mixing some simple ointment with it. Should this method not succeed, astringent or antiseptic remedies are to be tried, or Peruvian bark in decoction, and externally as a fomentation, or in a solid form, by sprinkling the sore with the powder.

Another accident, sometimes attendant upon healing buboes, is, that they take on an appearance much like a cancerous ulcer. This change sometimes happens as suddenly as the last, though it is usually slower : the sore seldom

don enlarges near so much, and rarely exceeds the bounds of the part which had been diseased by the abscess, or the action of the caustic or knife. The ulcer is, in some of these cases, of the colour of a healing wound ; but in most it is of a very pale red, and is in all covered with several eminences, each of which is studded over with granulations, and the edges of the sore are hard and uneven, or jagged. This alteration seems in general not to be venereal, because mercury alone will seldom perform a cure. Some of them may be cured by the Peruvian bark alone ; others do best with the bark joined with mercurials in a moderate or small quantity : probably an opiate application to the ulcer might be useful, and sarsaparilla should be tried, on the idea that this morbid change may be caused by the mercury.

It is remarkable that this change may occur many times in the same bubo : it commonly happens when the sore is nearly healed, by its spreading to its former size, sometimes even in twenty-four hours time, without pain, fever, or any apparent cause : the same mode of treatment is necessary every time.

But, in fact, some of these cases are of so very obstinate a nature, as seemingly to baffle every the most skilful attempts to cure them : in such,

hemlock taken internally, and used externally, will probably be found to be the best remedy, although I believe all these cases are curable by a perseverance in the skilful use of bark and mercury. This accident is not peculiar to any kind of constitution, for it seems to occur as often in a good as a bad one.

But I am well convinced that venereal buboes may be cured without any surgical operation, or caustic application: for, if they are treated as a common abscess, which is to be brought to suppuration, and are permitted to break of themselves, and the part is afterwards dressed with proper applications, such as emollient poultices softened with oil, or mercurial ointment made without turpentine, the cure may be performed without further surgical aid. By this method the matter will be all discharged, and the aperture will heal often without becoming a larger sore than the flat surface of a split pea. I have constantly used this method during these last six years, and find that less time is required to cure in this manner, than when either caustic or knife is used. There is, besides the preserving the patient from the pain of an operation, the further advantage of rendering the cure more expeditious, which the following case sufficiently elucidates.

In July, 1778, a young woman in the Magdalén Hospital had a venereal bubo in each groin, which were as much alike in size, situation, and every other circumstance, as possible. That in the right groin was opened by incision, the fifth day of the month : that in the other I brought to suppuration ; it broke of itself the twenty-eighth day of the same month, and was healed by the twenty-ninth day of August ; whereas that which had been opened by incision, was not cured till the middle of October.—This being a new method of treating buboes, I beg to be indulged in adding a few more lines for its fuller elucidation, and to vindicate it from such objections as will probably be urged against it. The curative intent is to procure an opening for the discharge of the matter contained in a venereal abscess, and to heal the part afterwards ; which designs are as effectually accomplished by permitting the abscess to make its own opening, as by opening it by caustic or incision. Besides the advantages attending this method, which have been already recited, it seems to me to be highly probable, that there is less danger, in this method, of the disease getting into the constitution by absorption of venereal matter, because the ulcerated surface is so much smaller than when an opening is

made by art. But it will probably be thought by some, that permitting these abscesses to make their own opening, is not good surgery. Nineteen cases, in which I have used this practice with success, prove that it will in general answer every curative intent: and it may be added, that most other abscesses, whether venereal or not, if situated as favourably as buboes, may be cured in the same manner, as I have repeatedly experienced. If letting out the matter from a bubo, and destroying the part where it had formed, would totally eradicate the venereal disease, it would always be good practice to destroy the whole surface by caustic: but this is not the case, for we have no proof of the whole venereal virus being collected at the part; and the following case shews the contrary to be the fact. A Surgeon dissected out two incipient buboes from a poor man, one from each groin, which had arisen in consequence of a chancre which had healed in a fortnight after its appearance, during which time he took three grains of calomel every night: each of the wounds, made by cutting out the buboes, became a large venereal sore, which could not be healed, though very skilfully treated, till the patient had taken a considerable quantity of mercury. It may also be added to the above observations, that

that the cure of buboes in this new method does not require more mercury than when opened by caustic or the knife.

The next of the diseases to be treated on, which happen in consequence of chancres, is the Phymosis. A Phymosis is such a state of the prepuce of the penis, that it cannot be drawn backwards so as to denude the glans. This complaint always begins with an inflammation; which may, in most cases, be cured by the frequent use of an emollient or sedative lotion injected between the prepuce and glans, and keeping the part covered with a warm relaxing poultice: the bowels should be kept lax by cooling purgatives; and such other remedies should be used as are proper for the cure of a local inflammation.

A long, hard, cord-like swelling arises upon the dorsum of the penis in some of these cases: it is usually about the thickness of a crow's quill, extends obliquely from the swelled prepuce to near the pubis, and is, in some instances, not painful, or tender to the touch. It is remarkable, that this symptom is seldom caused by ulcers on the prepuce; and that it usually disappears when the disease of the prepuce is cured: but, if it should remain after this, it may be dissolved by rubbing in mercurial

curial ointment on the glans, prepuce, and skin which covers the swelling. I have had one case of this kind which was not venereal, but arose without any known cause, and was not attended with any venereal symptom: at its first appearance, the prepuce was slightly inflamed and swelled.

After the inflammation has subsided, if the phymosis remains, the cause will be, either a swelling of the whole prepuce, partial indurations of it, or adhesions between it and the glans penis. In each of these states, we are advised by most authors on this subject, to perform the operation for the phymosis: this consists in cutting through the prepuce, from its fore part to its attachment to the corona glandis: the incision should be strait, and made at its upper part, and a little to one side to avoid cutting the artery, which runs along the middle of its upper surface. The incision should always be made with a curved knife, a director being introduced, if the state of the prepuce is such as to admit of both the instruments together; if not, it may very well be performed with a concave sharp-pointed bistoury, in this manner:—It is to be passed in flatways, then turned with the cutting edge forwards: the point is to be immediately protruded,

truded, and the operation to be completed, by making a strait incision through the prepuce. Probe scissars are sometimes used for this operation; but this is not good practice, for it may be always done with a knife; and scissars are a bad instrument, for they bruise at the same time that they cut, therefore the wounds they make are of a worse nature than those by the knife: another forcible reason to forbid their use is, that they give infinitely more pain than the knife, and no Surgeon can be justified in giving his patient more pain than is absolutely necessary. When this incision is made, the next thing to be done is, to cut off the callous or diseased parts of the prepuce: the part is then to be dressed with dry lint, and to be treated as a common incised wound, till a digestion is established.

The word *circumcision* originally meant the cutting off part, or the whole of the prepuce; but is used, in Surgery, to signify either that, or the simple division of the prepuce: but, from my observations upon several operations for the phymosis, I think it may be admitted as a general rule, that there never is any occasion to cut off the prepuce; for, however much it may be swelled or enlarged, if from a venereal cause, it is reducible to its original size,

by the judicious use of mercury ; and the prepuce, though divided, will diminish so much as not to be any impediment in the venereal act, or in voiding the urine. But further, every truly venereal phymosis, in which no alteration is produced in the structure of the parts, so as to occasion adhesions between the prepuce and glans penis, or contractions of it from loss of substance, by sloughing or deep ulcerations, may be cured without any operation, by such a course of mercurial medicines as was recommended for that of chancres : it is necessary, in most of these cases, to keep the gums or the breath affected by the mercury during the whole of the cure. A poultice of bread and milk, or linseed powder and water, should be kept continually on the prepuce, if it is inflamed ; and a proper lotion should be injected twice or thrice a day between the prepuce and glans ; and, if both these parts are ulcerated, they must be kept asunder, while they are healing, by some proper dressing, skilfully introduced between them, to prevent their uniting together. This method of treatment is conformable to the theory of the phymosis being such a venereal symptom, whose cure is principally to be effected by mercury. On this theory, I adopted this

mode

mode of practice, and have succeeded in every case which has come under my care for these last seven years, and have not failed, in one single instance, of curing without the operation, or even any confinement to the house. Other objections to the operation for the phymosis, are, that it is sometimes attended with a troublesome hæmorrhage, requiring the use of the needle and ligature: in other cases, the sore becomes extremely painful, spreads, and is very tedious of cure; instances of which I have seen.

The next symptom to be treated on is the Paraphymosis. The cause of this is the same as that of the phymosis; therefore, if the prepuce in a phymosis was to be retracted behind the corona glandis, it would there form such a stricture, that it could not again be drawn forwards over the glans penis; which constitutes the disease called paraphymosis. In some cases, this complaint requires the immediate assistance of a skilful surgeon; for the stricture, by causing inflammation and impeding the circulation, would, in a bad habit of body, bring on a mortification of the glans. The operation consists in dividing the strictures by incision, and then reducing the prepuce to its natural situation, that is, drawing it over the

glans ; but the last part can seldom be done without exciting great pain, from the inflamed state of the parts, or the violence which must necessarily be used from the parts having adhered : it should therefore be deferred till the inflammation is much reduced ; for, if the stricture is removed by the operation, the situation of the prepuce will not have any material effect upon the inflammation. The operation may be performed, in most cases, with the concave sharp-pointed bistoury, the point of which is to be cautiously passed under the strictures, which are then to be cut through. The next object is, to reduce the inflammation, which is to be effected by the use of emollient poultices, cooling sedative lotions, or fomentations to the diseased part, and using such internal remedies as are proper for a local inflammation. But, previous to the operation, the retraction of the skin to its natural situation should be attempted with the hands ; the best method of doing which, is, to include the glans in a piece of cloth wetted in cold water, and then with the left hand to press it for a minute or two, till its size is as much reduced as possible, by the blood being urged by this means into the spongy body of the urethra ; and then with the right hand the prepuce must be drawn over the glans. By this,

this method I have reduced the prepuce to its natural situation, in several cases which would otherwise have required the assistance of a cutting instrument.

A Swelling, or diseased enlargement, of the Labia Pudendi of women, is another, and not an uncommon consequence of chancres. This has seldom much tendency to inflammation, and therefore, in general, requires no other treatment but such a mercurial course as was recommended for the cure of chancres, and the constant use of a bread and milk or linseed poultice, softened with mercurial ointment prepared without turpentine. This swelling is in most cases of the œdematous kind; but in some few there is a general and equal hardness of the whole parts.

Ulcers of the Tonsils or Uvula, when they appear as the immediate consequence of a chancre healed injudiciously, seem to me to be a local venereal symptom. It has generally been regarded as a certain symptom of the constitutional lues; but this may be doubted, from the following circumstances: first, because it usually appears in a much shorter time than a constitutional lues venerea does; secondly, that the chancre, on the appearance of this symptom, loses much of its virulence; and lastly, that

the disease is confined to this part. From these circumstances, I think it may be rationally inferred, that the disease has removed from one part to the other, without infecting the constitution. It must however be confessed, that it is difficult to ascertain whether the constitution is infected with the disease by this change of situation, or not: yet, in favour of my opinion, it must be observed, that in some cases of abscesses (not venereal) the matter has been absorbed, and another abscess appeared in some distant part of the body, and in a less space of time than seems necessary for the translation of the matter, by the circulation of the blood, from one part to the other. And further, some parts are more prone to be affected by the venereal virus, at its removal from the genitals, than others; and the throat seems to be the most so of any distant parts. Venereal ulcers of the tonsils may be in most cases known from those of any other kind, by their peculiar appearance; for their edges are swelled, jagged, and irregular; the ulcerated surfaces being of a whitish colour, and having a peculiar venereal appearance, which cannot be learnt by any written description, but is easily distinguished by those who have scientifically attended

tended to the various appearances of ulcers of these parts*. There is also another kind of ulcer of the tonsils, which has the resemblance of a venereal one, but is not really such; nor is it of the inflammatory or putrid kind, but is said to be scorbutic. Most of these cases have occurred after the cure of a venereal ulcerated throat. I am of opinion, that it is not scorbutic, but arises from a disposition in the parts to form the same diseases which they have before been affected with: of the same kind are the ulcers which sometimes appear upon the parts where chancres had been seated. Venereal ulcers of the throat are frequently accompanied with an impediment of the voice, producing a thickness of speech, vulgarly called speaking through the nose, though, in fact, this is owing to the passage of the nose being obstructed by the swelling. Another circumstance, shewing the peculiar disposition of the tonsils to be affected by the venereal disease, is, that ulcers of them are in general the first symptom of the disease, when it has been received from

* I once saw a fair case of venereal ulcers of the tonsils, in which the disease was communicated by a kiss. It happened to a young Lady, who had suffered her Lover to kiss her when he had venereal ulcers on his tonsils. He had not taken any other liberties.

from matter applied to the genitals, without producing any complaint on them. This happened twice to a gentleman of my acquaintance: he had been connected with many common women; and the first venereal symptom with which he was attacked each time, was an ulcer of the tonsils.

This symptom, when recent, and the ulcers have not corroded deeply into the parts, may be cured without confinement, by such a mercurial course as was recommended for curing chancres. Mercurial applications will greatly promote the healing of the ulcers, and may be used in the form of a gargle: the most active in this way I imagine to be mercurius corrosivus sublimatus, dissolved in a watery or spirituous vehicle. Another efficacious mode of applying mercury to these ulcers, is by fumigation; but mercurial applications should not be used, unless the ulcer is of a peculiarly bad disposition, or that it does not properly yield to the effect of a mercurial course. Mercurius sublimatus was formerly in the highest reputation for this venereal symptom: it was always administered in a liquid vehicle, in which form it certainly seems to have a peculiar effect in curing venereal ulcers of the tonsils. But it has been observed, that the cures performed in this

this way were not permanent, as other venereal symptoms sometimes ensued ; from which, and other circumstances attendant on the effects of mercurial applications, it appears highly probable to me, that the injudicious application of mercury to the ulcers, in the act of drinking the medicine, prevented the cures from being effectual, by healing them before the virus was destroyed. For this reason, the mercurials prescribed for the cure of this symptom should be in a solid form.

The next venereal symptoms are, Ulcers of the Lips, Tongue, or Mouth. Ulcers often happen in these parts, particularly the lips, from other causes, but which bear some resemblance to these venereal ones. Venereal ulcers of the lips are surrounded by such a hardness as accompanies chancres ; those of the mouth, by an inflamed edge ; and those of the tongue generally appear as if a piece had been cut out ; besides these peculiar symptoms, they usually have something of the venereal aspect. But the appearances alone, in these symptoms, are seldom sufficiently characteristic of the disease ; it is therefore always necessary to gain every other assistance in our power : thus, by a careful examination of the patient, we may possibly find other venereal symptoms, or be enabled

enabled to ascertain the probability or improbability of its being venereal, from the mode of cure used for former venereal symptoms, having been adequate to the end proposed, or not. The cure of these ulcers is the same as of those of the tonsils : but it must be remarked, that mercurial applications have not so powerful an effect in promoting their healing.

Verrucæ, or Condylomata, are venereal excrescences, situated most frequently round the anus : they are both of the same nature ; those being called Verrucæ, which are not much raised above the sound surface on which they are seated ; and those Condylomata, which are elevated so as to become pendulous. They are, in some cases, an immediate effect of chancres ; but most frequently are a symptom of the constitutional lues. The cure is first to be attempted by such a course of mercurials as will gently affect the fauces, but not excite a salivation : this course is to be continued about five weeks ; and, if the tumors do not then greatly diminish or disappear, the cure is to be effected by excision or caustic. The verrucæ are, in most cases, more easily cured by caustic than by incision. The common caustic applications will generally succeed in removing these excrescences ; but

but if they grow again, or do not decrease properly, it would be right to use a caustic having arsenic for its basis. Mercurial fumigations used to these tumors have been found to cure some of them, after caustic and incision have failed: but a gentle mercurial course must be persisted in till the cure is completed.

Warts upon the Penis, or Labia Pudendi, are the next symptom on which we are to speak. They are seated, in men, on the glans penis, corona glandis, and prepuce; and, in women, on the labia pudendi, nymphæ, clitoris, and orifice of the meatus urinæ. These are, in some cases, not venereal; which I assert from having seen some clear instances of such, which I cured by external remedies alone: therefore, when there is no other venereal symptom, and they are not fixed to an inflamed part, the cure should be attempted by external remedies, on the idea of their being a local, and not a venereal disease. Venereal warts are, in many cases, accompanied with some other venereal symptom, and, when they are not, are usually fixed to a diseased surface, and have an inflammatory tendency. That they are a true venereal symptom in some cases, is proved by their disappearing as soon as a proper quantity of mercury is introduced into the

body, without the assistance of any topical application, after having previously resisted the effects of the most judicious external remedies; and by their communicating the Venereal Disease to another person, of which I have known a certain instance. It must also be remarked, that taking away warts while a venereal taint remains, is very seldom of any use, because they generally grow again, or others form on the same parts. The methods used for removing them are, excision, ligature, or caustic. The first is seldom used, on account of the dread which most people have of having a cutting instrument used to these parts: when the cure is attempted in this way, the whole surface on which the wart grows should be cut off. The next method is, by ligature: this is peculiarly well adapted for removing such as have a large body and a slender basis; and, in all cases where it can be used, is most likely to effect a lasting cure, probably from its being more apt to bring on such an inflammation of the parts which furnish them with vessels, as to prevent their growing again: the ligature should be made of waxed thread of a proper thickness, in proportion to the size of the warts, and should be tied as tight as possible, so as not to cut through their basis; for,

in that case, the end proposed, which is of stopping the circulation, would be frustrated. The third method, which is that of destroying them by caustic, is performed by touching their whole surface with such a caustic as will not liquefy, and run upon the adjacent sound part : this application is to be repeated as often as the slough formed by the action of the caustic comes off ; the cure, in this method, may be assisted by the use of a stimulating application, such as a solution of mercurius corrosivus sublimatus, half a grain, or a grain, in an ounce of water. It is also a fact, that inflammation from any other cause will sometimes cure them, causing them to fall off as if destroyed by caustic ; from which circumstance, I have sometimes used a stimulating lotion with success. It is difficult to form a proper theory of the cures performed in this way ; but the most probable one seems to be, that inflammation produces such an alteration in the disposition of the parts which produce the warts, as to prevent them from supplying the quantity of blood necessary for their growth. But, although warts may, in most instances, be cured in one of these methods without much difficulty, yet there is another kind of case, the cure of which is very difficult ; for the warts grow faster, and

increase

increase in number, upon the use of either of the above-recited remedies : an arsenic caustic should then be tried ; and if that does not succeed, all stimulating applications should be laid aside, and the cure attempted by a gentle mercurial course. This state of the disease seems to be caused by the parts where the warts are seated having so strong a tendency to form them ; that every irritation of the part causes an increase of the tumors. In cases which do not yield to either of the above methods of cure, mercurial fumigations to the part should be made use of.

Another disease sometimes caused by chancres is, Venereal Eruptions, or Blotches, on the Skin. This symptom, in these cases, appears immediately after a chancre injudiciously healed, and is always attended with such an alteration in its appearance as occurs at the origin of any other venereal symptom ; which circumstance tends strongly to prove, that it is caused by the chancre. These eruptions usually appear first about the pit of the stomach, and afterwards on the whole fore part of the body, the forehead, and the face ; and, in its worst state, the roots of the nails will become black : but it is somewhat remarkable, that

they

they never appear on the penis, scrotum, or pubes.

They sometimes arise very suddenly, that is, within twenty-four hours; but, in general, are three or four days in making their appearance. When this symptom first appears, the skin is mottled with light-brown marks: after a few days, the principal part of the discolouration disappears, and leaves distinct darker spots, called copper-coloured, though, in fact, the colour bears a nearer resemblance to a bruised part after the blackness has gone off, such as may be observed in what is vulgarly styled a black eye, when a yellow or livid appearance succeeds the blackness: after some time, most of these spots disappear, and others arise, gradually enlarging, and then are covered with a scurf; or scab, which falls off, and is succeeded by a thicker one; and when this process has been repeated several times, the cutis is destroyed, and an ulcer is formed in this place, which will sometimes spread larger than the surface of a shilling, and is always surrounded with a swelled and inflamed edge. Some of these are very painful and tender to the touch; others are not so. When these are seated either on the nates or armpits, the skin against which they necessarily rub becomes diseased, though

though in a somewhat different way ; for a white rough scurf will rise upon the surface of the skin, filled with a watery fluid, contained in numerous small vesicles.

The cure of this symptom must be performed by such a course of mercurials as will act principally upon the skin : but salivation is unnecessary, and, in most cases, would retard the cure, because, when mercury affects the fauces, it seems to act less powerfully upon the surface of the body, where the disease is seated ; and, on this principle, confinement to the house, should it cause the mercury to act upon the mouth, would also retard the cure. The best-adapted preparations for curing this disease are, mercurius corrosivus sublimatus, mercurius calcinatus, or calomel, and sulphur auratum antimonii, of each equal parts ; and the action of either of these, or of any mercurial preparation, upon the perspiratory organ, will be assisted by diluting potions : half a pint of a strong decoction of sarsaparilla, mezereon, or of any of the sweetening roots, should be drank warm three times a day ; or any other alkaline sudorific medicine may be advised instead of these.

Ulcers on the part where the chancres had been seated, are also a symptom, though rather

an uncommon one, sometimes arising from chancres. It generally happens at the distance of two or three weeks after the chancres have been cured; and, in every case of this kind, which has come under my inspection, there had been several chancres; from which it seems probable, that it seldom happens from a single one. The ulcers most frequently appear upon parts which have no cuticle, as the glans penis, and inside of the labia pudendi. They have no surrounding hardness, nor have they a venereal appearance. They are usually several in number; and never come upon the healed surfaces of the chancres, though always contiguous to them. They may, most commonly, be cured in a few days, by a gently-astringent lotion or ointment. A remarkable circumstance which occurs in some of these cases is, that they return again several times, at nearly the same interval from their first appearance after the chancres were healed. Under these circumstances, the principal object should be, to endeavour to ascertain the cause of this symptom, and to prescribe such a medicinal course as is best adapted for its cure and prevention.

The other symptoms recited in the assemblage of those caused by chancres, are **Nodes of the Periosteum, Nocturnal Pains, and**

Caries

Caries of the Bones ; but, as I design to treat of these symptoms in the ensuing part of this work, it is unnecessary to say any thing now upon these subjects, farther than to observe, that when caused by chancres they generally appear within three or four weeks after the healing of the chancre, and are not accompanied with any other venereal complaint.

Having now treated on the diseases which are generally known to happen in consequence of chancres, it may not be improper, previous to the next part of this work, to relate some cases which prove, that they are capable of producing other very different effects.

A Gentleman had a chancre, in August, 1777, for the cure of which he immediately began a proper course of mercurial medicines : a week afterwards, he was wet through his clothes in an open boat ; in three days, the chancre was perfectly well ; but a week after, he was taken ill, at bed-time, with a shivering fit : a feverish heat and drought ensued : the next day, he was attacked with a difficulty of speech, caused by a distortion of his mouth, the right side being drawn up towards the eye. The feverish complaint was cured in a few days, by lying in bed, low diet, two mild cathartics, and some saline draughts ; but the distortion

distortion of the mouth continued, and the contracted part was considerably hardened. An eminent Physician consulted with a skilful Surgeon upon this case; and they were of opinion, that it was a venereal symptom caused by the chancre. A course of mercurial frictions was begun immediately; and in a few days, when the mercury began to affect the fauces, the hardness decreased, the contraction lessened apparently, was entirely removed in twelve days from the beginning of the mercurial course, and the cure was completed in four weeks. This extraordinary venereal affection of the mouth has been remarked by some former authors on the Venereal Disease. From the circumstances which preceded this symptom, and the success of mercury in curing it, there can be no doubt but that it was venereal, and the immediate consequence of the chancre.

A second uncommon venereal case happened to a Gentleman who had arrived two months before from the East-Indies. Two recent chancres appeared upon the corona of the glans penis, which were properly treated, during ten days, by an Apothecary; but, as they continued growing worse, he put himself under the care of a Surgeon: the whole glans penis was

then slightly inflamed ; the patient was bled twice, and the most effectual remedies used for reducing the inflammation during a fortnight ; notwithstanding which, it became more violent than ever, and had a manifest tendency to mortification : two Hospital-Surgeons, and a Physician, were then consulted ; and, notwithstanding their utmost efforts to prevent a mortification, a portion of the teguments of the penis, the prepuce, glans, and part of the urethra, mortified, separated, and came away, leaving an orifice in the urethra, at the perinæum, through which the unhappy patient voided his urine ever afterwards. As soon as these parts were healed, he was attacked with nocturnal pains in his arms and legs ; had a venereal node on his right olecranon, one on each tibia, and one on the metatarsal bone of the second toe of his right foot ; which last suppurred, and part of the bone exfoliated. He was at length cured by a course of mercurial frictions, continued during ten weeks.

I have seen another case attended with the same circumstances of a mortification, and loss of part of the urethra, glans, and prepuce ; but without any other venereal symptom.

ON THE
CONSTITUTIONAL
LUES VENEREA.

THIS stage of the disease is the only one which can be, with strict propriety, styled the Lues Venerea. It is frequently caused by the unskilful management of some of the symptoms proceeding from chancres. Sometimes, however, it is the immediate consequence of a chancre, of which the last case but one is a clear instance; and, in other more rare instances, it appears without any previous venereal symptoms, the virus having probably been absorbed into the circulation from matter applied to the external parts of generation, without producing any disease of them. The symptoms produced by the virus, when in the constitution, are, nocturnal pains in the bones of the limbs and head, pains and swellings of the joints and other parts of the limbs, nodes, caries of the bones, deafness, abscesses, and ulcers

ulcers in various parts of the body, venereal ophthalmia, fistula lacrymalis, small hard tumors on the hairy scalp, and nape of the neck, falling-off of the hair, hectic consumption, cough, the ozæna, polypus of the nose, loss of sight, scaly eruptions, or chaps, in the palms of the hands or feet, small ulcers on the tongue and inside of the mouth, and head-ach. Besides these, there are many other venereal symptoms, which occur on parts not commonly the seat of this disease.

Some ancient authors, besides the symptoms already recited, assert that it in some cases attacks the brain; in others, the lungs or abdominal viscera; also, that it sometimes produces the leprosy.

The first-mentioned disorder caused by the venereal virus, when in the constitution, is fixed or wandering pains in the bones of the limbs and head. This symptom generally comes on at a considerable interval of time after some other venereal one, being usually more than six weeks: but, as the first attack of this disorder is usually slight, it is apt to be disregarded, and not thought to require any medical aid, being often mistaken for rheumatism, or a common cold. And, indeed, it will of itself, in some instances, disappear without

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the use of mercury : but then it either returns with greater violence, or produces some other venereal complaint. The interval of time between the disappearance of this symptom, and the rise of the same, or any other venereal affection, as has already been observed, is indeterminate ; but it is always greater after every time of the venereal symptoms having spontaneously, or without the use of mercury, gone off. This, as well as every other symptom of the constitutional lues venerea, is the more difficult of cure in proportion to the length of time that it is in the constitution. Why it should be so, cannot perhaps be satisfactorily accounted for ; but it is no improbable conjecture, that the venereal virus, in proportion to the length of time that it has been in the constitution, produces its effects with a less degree of pain, inflammation, and irritation ; and that consequently, if the diseased parts are become less irritable, they will not so easily be acted upon by mercury : on this principle we may account for the dreadful havock made in various parts of the body by an old constitutional lues venerea, without that degree of pain which would be the inevitable attendant on such disease of the parts, if produced by any other cause. It seems necessary in this place to introduce

introduce the following general observations on the Constitutional Lues Venerea.—The venereal disorder, when once in the constitution, will continue during life, unless cured by mercury.—Its progress may be stopped, and the symptoms even removed, for a time, by any acute or violent disease, such as a fever. Every age, sex, and peculiarity of constitution, of the human race, is subject to the effects of the venereal virus; but there are some constitutions more susceptible of it than others, and on which it produces greater disease; particularly the scorbutic habit of body: and I am of opinion, that the disease is slower in its progress, longer in its time of appearance, and attended with less inflammation, in women than in men. Further, that no species of constitutional lues can be cured by any other medicinal course than a mercurial one: this is one of the most certain facts of any in the healing art; for, in all ages and countries where this disease has raged, attempts have been made to cure it by every other medicine, which, from its known properties, was thought capable of doing this; and of the numerous instances related of cures so performed, there is not a single one to be relied upon. But, although no medicine, except mercury, will cure a constitutional

stitutional lues venerea, yet some of them are capable of yielding much relief in some symptoms of the disease. Another circumstance in curing the constitutional lues venerea, is, that the mercurial course necessary for this purpose, must be such as to produce apparent effects, to shew that it is in a dissolved state in the patient's body ; and it is also necessary that these effects should be kept up by mercury, during the whole time of the cure : therefore the cure of the constitutional lues venerea, performed by a violent salivation, or any other effect of mercury, though continued even for many weeks, if caused by however great a quantity of mercury, introduced into the constitution at only such a number as five or six doses or inunctions, is never effectual ; the disease always appearing afterwards. And, from my observations on a great number of these cases, it appears, that those cures are very seldom permanent which are performed with less than fourteen doses of mercury ; from which it follows, that the quantity of mercury, or time necessary for the cure of a lues venerea, can never be previously ascertained ; as it will depend upon its action on the patient's constitution, and on the disease ; for some people are so irritated by mercury, that it is

is extremely difficult to introduce into their blood such a quantity as is necessary for curing the disease: this circumstance happens to some gouty persons. I am also of opinion, that mercury, when it does not produce any apparent effects, has in very few cases even the power of stopping the progress of the symptoms of this stage of the disease. The quantity of mercury to be given, or rubbed in, for a dose, should be as great as the patient can bear, so as not to produce any violent effects, or such symptoms as to prevent its repetition, either daily, or every other day; for when it acts in that way, the cure is retarded, from the mercury not being used so often as is necessary to perform a cure when such effects do not happen, and is rendered less certain from the symptoms disappearing, or abating much of their virulent appearance, merely in consequence of the evacuation or stimulus produced by the mercury, and not by its acting upon the disease as an antidote in destroying its virus. When a large quantity of mercury is to be introduced into the body in a short time, mercurial ointment is in most cases the best preparation for this purpose, because there are few people whose intestines will bear such a quantity of crude mercury as may be rubbed in by

by ointment; or such a dose of any other preparation of equal strength, without being thereby so irritated as to evacuate it by stool. The ointment is to be rubbed into the skin: the parts chosen for this purpose, are the thighs, legs, feet, arms, and hands. It should be done in a warm room, before a fire, and is to be continued till the whole is absorbed; so that the time necessary for rubbing in any quantity is indeterminate; for the larger the surface is which is anointed, the sooner it will be absorbed. The skin of some people will absorb mercurial ointment much sooner than that of others; and even in the same person it will enter more quickly at some times, than at others, during a mercurial course. Some old authors have mentioned anointing the whole surface of the body; but modern practice forbids the use of mercurial ointment to the head, breast, and abdomen, through fear of producing some disturbance in the functions of these parts: the ointment, in a moderate quantity, may however be rubbed in upon these parts; for it does not pass from the surface to the centre of the parts over which it is rubbed, being carried into the circulation chiefly by the lymphatic absorbent vessels, which run along the surface of the body, and are not found in

any parts to pass inwards, except in a slanting or oblique direction: but, as this practice is seldom necessary in venereal cases, it is needless to add more on the subject. The effects of mercury upon the constitution having already been treated on, it only remains for me here, to add a few words upon the subject of salivation; it having been for many years, and being now, in high estimation, as the best mode of curing the venereal disease; and by some practitioners it is supposed to be the only effectual one.

Having before endeavoured to prove that the great utility of salivation arises from the fauces, being the most favourable part of the body for the mercury to act upon, during a cure; care should therefore be taken, that it be not excited by any other means than the simple effects of mercury; because, if raised to too great a height, it will retard the cure by stopping the mercurial course, and render it more uncertain by producing an abatement or disappearance of the venereal symptoms, without destroying the virulence of the disease. But in physic, as in other sciences, it has been common to err in theory, by passing from one extreme to another: thus some have thought salivation never needful, and that, whenever it comes

comes on, it should be removed by exposing the patient to the open air; for it is known from numerous observations, that warmth promotes a mercurial salivation, and that cold air retards it: instances, proving which, sometimes occur in patients, who have been taking mercury without its producing any effect upon the mouth, and, on being confined in a warm room for a few days, become salivated, without taking any more mercury; which must certainly be owing to warmth exciting the action of the mercury upon the salivary glands. It is also a fact, though at first view it seems paradoxical, that sudden exposure to cold air will sometimes excite a salivation; which I suppose it does by increasing the heat and irritability of the body, by causing a slight fever: but, as some other symptom usually ensues from the sudden stoppage of a spitting, such as a violent vomiting, or a fit of the cholic, I think it would not be prudent to expose a person, who is in a salivation, suddenly to the cold air; but, if the effect of cold is tried, the change should be gradual, by taking the patient first for a few hours into a room where there is no fire; the next day the window might be opened; and the first time he goes out, he should have the same flannels and clothes on, which are worn

in the usual way of being managed in a salivation. Another circumstance is, that a certain quantity of mercury, introduced into the constitution in a short time, has more effect in curing the disorder, than the same quantity given in smaller doses and in a longer space of time. Therefore it should be a general rule to introduce as much mercury at each time, as the patient can bear, without its producing any violent effects. It is not, however, yet ascertained, whether it is best to give, or rub in, the mercury in a double quantity every other day, or half the same proportion each night: in obstinate cases, and strong constitutions, the first of these methods should be tried; but in common cases, and in all weak constitutions, any attempts to get a large quantity of mercury into the body in a short time, will be attended with danger of its bringing on a diarrhœa, a violent salivation, or some such disorder as would retard the cure. The mercury, in curing this stage of the disease, is to act principally by the quantity introduced into the body in a dissolved state; therefore one of the mild class of its preparations will in most cases be the most eligible: but if such are found not to act upon the constitution in a proper way, that is, when a great quantity has

been

been introduced without producing any effect, one of the acrid mercurials may be given to advantage, to excite the mercurial stimulus in the constitution, and cause it to dissolve the mercury; thus a few grains of calomel, given every night, will, in some cases, soon bring on a ptyalism, after half a drachm of crude mercury has been taken, or rubbed in, every day for two or three weeks, without producing any such symptom: if this method does not produce the desired effect, a large dose of one of the acrid preparations should be given. This peculiarity is in some cases constitutional; but in others it seems to be owing to the long-continued use of mercury, by which it loses the power of stimulating the body; just as strong liquors, or an unwholesome air, cease to produce any bad effects upon those who have been long accustomed to them. In one case of this kind, the unhappy patient had such a caries of the right orbit, that the eye was protruded out of the socket: he had, by the advice of his Surgeon, rubbed in a drachm of strong mercurial ointment, and had taken three quarters of a grain of corrosive sublimate of mercury, night and morning. Another Surgeon, being consulted on this case, advised that the mercurial course should be left off, and that

that the patient should take no other medicine for three weeks, except a laxative potion every other day. He was then put under a gentle course of mercurial inunctions ; and, in ten days after, a kindly spitting ensued, though only half as much mercurial ointment was rubbed in every night, as had been used in the former course. In the other state, when the mercury does not produce any of its usual effects upon the patient, and that circumstance cannot be accounted for from the cause above mentioned, it is to be regarded as a constitutional peculiarity : in these cases, the doses should be increased as suddenly as can be done with prudence, and some of the stimulating preparations tried: perhaps electrification might be used to advantage in such cases ; which, by increasing the irritability of the body, might render it more susceptible of the mercurial stimulus. From some instances of this kind which have come under my inspection, and others which I have been informed of, this disposition does not seem to be peculiar to any constitution or form of body, but occurs in all.

It appeared necessary to introduce these general observations on the disease, and on the use and action of mercury, previous to the treating on the symptoms of the constitutional

tional lues venerea, because they are applicable to all its symptoms: we therefore now proceed to their cure, in the order in which they were stated.

The first symptom is, Nocturnal Pains in the Limbs and Head. They are not, strictly speaking, nocturnal; for they happen in the day, as well as the night. It is often very difficult to distinguish them from rheumatic pains, there being a great resemblance between them; for the exacerbation of the pains at night, is the same in each, and is also a common symptom in some other chronic complaints. It is necessary, in order to form a proper judgement on these cases, to attend particularly to the venereal complaints which the patient had formerly been afflicted with, and their mode of cure; for, if it had been unskilfully performed, that circumstance would probably set the matter in its proper light. If the case still remains a doubtful one, it may be at first treated as the rheumatism, as its not getting better in that way would be a strong argument in favour of its being venereal. These pains, at their beginning, are usually erratic, with respect to the parts affected, and the times when they return; but the fore parts of the tibia are, in most cases, the first seat of this disease; and the

the humerus, the shoulder joint, or the boney point of the elbow, are generally next attacked with these pains. After this symptom has gone on for a few weeks, the pains increase, become more durable, and more fixed in their situation ; and lastly, the bones of the skull sometimes are the seat of this disease, causing a venereal head-ach.

These pains may, in most cases, be much alleviated, and, in some, nearly removed, by the radix laureolæ (mezereon). The best mode of giving it is in a decoction, made by boiling three drachms of the fresh root, cut into small slips, in three pints of river water, till it comes to a quart. This medicine is very beneficial, where the pains are so violent as to weaken the patient, and a mercurial course cannot be immediately entered upon : but it is best to perform the cure by mercury, without the assistance of this medicine, because it does not seem to possess any power over the disease, as an antidote or destroyer of its virus ; for the pains cannot be radically cured by it, being found always either to return again, or to occasion some other symptom of the constitutional lues venerea. The mild preparations will cure every such case, if administered properly, so as to excite a mercurial stimulus in

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the constitution : and, if the patient is in good health, a cure may often be effected without confinement, especially in warm weather or a warm climate. Warmth is a great promoter of the action of mercury ; and, for this reason, the disease is easier cured in warm than in cold climates. The time requisite for curing this symptom, if the patient is confined, will never be less than five weeks, and, without confinement, two months. The mercurial course should be continued during the whole time, even if the symptoms are removed sooner ; but it is necessary always to go on with the mercury for one week after the disease is cured ; for by experience it is found, that this is the only method in which there can be a certain dependence of an effectual cure being performed, because a disappearance of the disorder for a few weeks or longer may happen from some other unknown cause, even where no course of medicines has been used ; and it being a fact established by practical remarks, that cures performed without this precaution, are seldom (I am inclined to think never) permanent. If mercurial ointment is used, it should not be rubbed in on the parts where the pains are ; for this might remove them without destroying the venereal virus, and thus

put the patient in the same kind of danger of having his constitution further affected by the disease, as when any other venereal symptom is cured by a mercurial course; but the removal of the symptoms of the disease has been effected by the application of mercury to the parts affected. The bones most liable to be the seat of this disease are those of the most solid texture, and, in general, those parts of them which are most exposed to the action of the air, from being but thinly covered with soft parts, such as the fore parts of the tibiæ, and the olecranon. The reason of the disease fixing on these parts is not known: some writers have attributed it chiefly to the peculiar structure of the parts affected; but this theory is not satisfactory, because there are parts of other bones of a similar structure, but which are not the seat of such pains once for twenty times in the others. It has been supposed, that this circumstance was owing to the action of the air upon the parts; but the fallacy of this appears, from the outer and inner processes of the bones which form the ankles, and from other parts of bones, being as thinly covered with soft parts as those usually affected, and being yet very seldom the seat of venereal pains. The truth seems to be, that

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Something is to be attributed to each cause; but that it depends principally upon the structure of the bones affected, they being those of the most solid structure, as is the spine of the tibia and os frontis; whereas the boney parts which form the ancles, and other bones which are but thinly covered by soft parts, and are seldom affected by the venereal disease, are of a less compact structure, being of that kind called by anatomists, spongy.

These pains may be, in many cases, much relieved by preventing the action of the air upon the parts; which may be done by covering them with flannel so thickly, as effectually to prevent the air from having access to them, or with some plaster of a warm nature, such as diachylon cum gummis, spread upon leather. This circumstance is of such consequence, that, in some cases, a cure can scarcely be effected without it. In a case of this kind, the patient, who had undergone two salivations without effect, and was about to make a voyage to Lisbon, to try what benefit could be had from a warmer climate, was advised to put himself once more under a gentle mercurial course, keeping the parts constantly covered with flannels; by which he experienced an effectual cure in the course of six weeks.

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The next symptom is, pain in the joints and other parts of the limbs. The joints most liable to be thus affected, are the shoulder, elbow, knee, or ankle. In many of these cases this symptom is blended with the last, the pains being seated on almost the whole of the limbs affected, and there being no external morbid appearance. When this disease fixes on any joint, it becomes weak, is painful when moved, and generally swells ; but this is not so perceptible in joints which are thickly covered with soft parts, as is the shoulder joint. What the local effect produced on the parts is, we do not with certainty know ; but it most probably is a swelling and inflammation of the ligaments of the joint. The swellings which sometimes accompany this symptom, appearing on other parts of the limbs, are usually seated on the fasciæ ; and I think, that which covers the muscles on the outside of the leg, and that placed on its lower and back part, are most often affected in this way. This inflammation has a tendency to suppurate, and usually does so, unless the virulence of the disease is destroyed by mercury, or a revulsion is produced by some other disorder, or by evacuant medicines.

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These symptoms form a worse state of the disease than the former. The cure is to be effected by the same mercurial course as the last, with this difference, that it usually must be longer continued: and in this, the meze-reon root, and warmth, are of less efficacy towards alleviating the pain. It is highly probable, that blisters applied over the whole diseased part, would be of great service in curing this affection of the joints, having been found very serviceable in the ensuing symptom, and in that kind of enlargement of the joints called the White Swelling.

Nodes are the next symptom of the disease. This disorder was not rightly understood till very lately; for Nodes were always supposed to have been swellings of the bones: but modern observations prove, that they are in general a disease of the periosteum only, though in some cases the tumour is of the bone itself. They are usually painful; from which circumstance it is probable, that they are a more common disorder than is imagined, being the cause of some venereal pains in those parts of bones which are so thickly covered with soft parts, that the swelling cannot be felt through them: some cases of which kind I have seen.

Some

Some nodes are attended with very little pain; these are generally very slow in their formation, not having near so strong a disposition to suppurate, as the former kind have. They usually begin with a fixed pain in the part, the swelling being confined at first to a space usually about the size of a shilling; and they seldom spread much beyond their original breadth. Some are constantly painful, extremely tender to the touch, and the integuments which cover them are slightly inflamed: others are so indolent as to excite but very little pain. The matter which forms in them is usually dark coloured, and of a tenacious ropy consistence, resembling that of an inguinal bubo. The parts subject to this disease are those which are the seat of venereal pains in the bones; that symptom generally preceding this: but other bones are sometimes the seat of this disease; an instance of which occurred in a patient of mine, in the summer of 1777, who had nodes on four ribs of each side.—The cure of nodes is to be performed by such a mercurial course as the last symptom, continued till they are perfectly free from pain; but if a cure should be effected in less than five or six weeks, the mercurial course must be persisted in for at least that time, because the venereal virus will seldom be effectually eradicated

dicated in this state, unless the constitution has been so long stimulated by mercury. Much assistance however may be had in the cure, by a skilful surgical treatment of these tumours; and the pain may in some of them be much alleviated by the mezereon decoction, given either previous to, or during the mercurial course. Before matter has formed, the disease may in some cases be cured by applying a blister over the whole surface of the tumour; but a more certain way of curing them, is, by making an incision through their longest extent down to the bone: the wound must afterwards be dressed superficially, and will usually heal in a short time, without any inconvenience arising from the bone having been denuded. But, as these operations are not capable of destroying the venereal virus, they should only be used in such cases as do not readily yield to a mercurial course, or in which such a course cannot be immediately entered upon. When matter has formed, it is to be let out, either by caustic or incision: the former was the common method, but the latter is to be preferred on many accounts: First, that from there being a smaller portion of bone exposed, there will be a proportionably less degree of danger of an exfoliation: Secondly,

condly, that incision seems to be a more certain and more expeditious cure of the disease in the periosteum, than the action of a caustic: from the sore produced by this method, being smaller than the other, and the process of casting off an eschar being avoided, the wound may be healed in much less time. This subject may be concluded by observing, that nodes arise often from bruises, and sometimes even without any known cause, which resemble venereal ones in every symptom, except the preceding pain of the part: also, that it is in many cases impossible to reduce the swollen portion of the periosteum to its natural size; and therefore the criterion of the part being free from pain, and not tender to the touch, is in general a proof that the venereal virus is destroyed, and that mercury will not be of any further assistance in reducing the swellings.

Caries of the Bones is the next symptom. This disease is of two kinds; the one, when it is caused by, or fixes on, that part of a bone which had been covered by a node of the periosteum; in the other, the caries originates in the bone, and the periosteum becomes afterwards diseased in consequence of it: and it is asserted by some authors, that a venereal

taint

taint is sometimes the cause of fractures of the bones, happening from an internal cause: Le Dran and Heister were of this opinion. In the extraordinary case of fractures from an internal cause, which terminated in a mollities ossium, related by Mr. Thompson, in the fifth volume of the London Medical Essays, he gives reasons for supposing that this disease originated from a venereal cause.—The former kind may in most cases be prevented by blisters or incision, as was advised in the treatment of nodes of the periosteum. The other species attacks most frequently the os frontis, ossa parietalia, ethmoides, ossa spongiosa, ossa nasi, or the bones which form the boney arch of the palate. This disease of the frontal, or parietal bones, begins sometimes in an extraordinary manner; for a portion of the outer table of the bone is eroded in a circular form, the inside of this diseased circle remaining sound: the caries then spreads irregularly in every direction; and the periosteum becomes diseased, and matter frequently forms between it and the carious bone. But the venereal virus produces various kinds of caries; which seems owing to the peculiar structure of the bones affected, and not to any specific action of the disease on them; for the caries of such bones,

when arising from any other cause, is attended with the same symptoms as the venereal one: therefore, when it attacks the bones contained in the cavity of the nose, they being formed of extremely thin layers of bone, exfoliations soon take place, and the parts thrown off are whole portions of the bone; and their covering membrane having a secreting surface, and, in consequence, being plentifully supplied with vessels, becomes diseased, and soon communicates the virus to the remaining part of the bone. The surgical treatment of this caries consists in removing the diseased particles of bone with the forceps; but no violence should be used, because these bones are of so delicate a texture, that a very little force with that instrument is capable of breaking the sound bone. When the membrana schneideriana becomes ulcerated, as it does in some cases of caries of the bones which it covers, the disease is styled an Ozæna. When the ossea nasi become carious, if an exfoliation is unavoidable, it should be procured from the cavity of the nose, by means of the common forceps; and it may be necessary to assist the extraction of the bone, by making an incision through its covering membrane with a lancet or gum-fleam. In order to prevent the inconvenience

convenience of a sore on its outside, and a scar, which would be left after the cure, no surgical applications should be used to the outside, unless there is an inflammation, or tendency to suppuration, and then such only as are best adapted to prevent a rupture of the skin. A solution of saccharum saturni, and sal ammoniacum, in water, will in most cases be a very eligible remedy for this purpose. In the caries of the bones of the palate, the exfoliation always comes away by the mouth; and it is sometimes necessary to make an incision through the membrane which covers it, to make room for its extraction. The venereal disease does not fix on these bones often; and I think it is nearly certain that these cases are not so common now as they were formerly, even within the remembrance of many Surgeons now living. It also appears to me, that it does not produce these effects in women so often as in men; which can scarcely be doubted, if it be considered that it is seldom seen in prostitutes, though, out of the great number of them, very few escape having the venereal disease; and that we observe more men disfigured by these kinds of caries than women. These diseases are accompanied with the following symptoms: the caries of the bones in

the cavity of the nose is attended with such a change of the voice, as is vulgarly called "speaking through the nose;" as is the same disease of the boney palate, and offa nasi. This is undoubtedly caused by the cavity of the nose being contracted by the swelling of its inner membrane, so as to prevent the passage of such a quantity of air as should be transmitted through it, for the proper modulation of the voice. When the offa nasi throw off any exfoliations, the nose becomes flattened; for being portions of their whole substance, its arched form is lost by the removal of the support or buttress to the covering integuments; and the change of voice continues for life. Exfoliations of the palate usually leave an opening between the mouth and nose: this, if small, and left to take its own course, has been known to close, which must have been effected either by a callus, or by the membrane of the mouth uniting over it. Large exfoliations of this boney partition leave an opening between the two cavities; which usually causes such an imperfection in speech, as to render articulation very imperfect. It is also attended with a most distressful difficulty in swallowing food, owing to part of it being forced into the cavity of the nose, by the action of the tongue in

in chewing and swallowing. These inconveniences may, however, be in a great measure remedied by a false palate, made of silver, gold, or horn.*

This instrument will answer the desired purpose, in many cases, so well as to enable the patient to speak and swallow without inconvenience, even though there was so large an aperture as to make both these actions attended with extreme difficulty without this assistance. The false palate should be taken out every evening for the sponge to be cleaned, or a new one put on; and it may either be worn at night, or not, as from experience may be found necessary. In a case of this kind, in which I used this instrument, the false palate was made of silver, so thin that it could be easily bent; and the woman had three of them to wear in change, but never slept with one in. The surgical treatment of venereal caries of the solid bones consists, first, in the proper management of the disease of the soft parts which cover them; and next, in removing the carious portions of bone. For the first purpose, such applications are to be used as are necessary in an

inflam-

* A description of which may be seen in Heister's Surgery, Chapter XC, on Operations of the Head.

inflammation, or abscess of the parts, derived from any other cause: and the second intent is to be effected by the use of the forceps; and, if the opening to the diseased part is not sufficiently large for the extraction of the bone, it must be enlarged by proper tents of sponge, gentian, or such like substances, or, which is in most cases the best method, by incision: but it should be remarked, that denuding a diseased portion of bone which is to exfoliate, before it is loosened from the sound part, is injudicious; for very little if any benefit can accrue from it, and keeping the bone denuded is attended usually with much pain and considerable difficulty. It is also to be observed, that the abscesses which usually happen in consequence of these diseases of the bone, may, when they are disposed to break of themselves, be permitted so to do; and that, in taking away the unsound bone, none, or very little force must be used in detaching it from the sound part; for the cure of the disease in the constitution cannot, I think, be expedited by any surgical treatment of the part affected. The cure, in all these cases, must be performed by a powerful and long-continued course of mercury: the mild preparations are to be preferred, because they may be longer used than

the

the acrid ones: as much as possible must be introduced into the body, so as gently to affect the mouth, urinary or perspiratory organs, without causing a salivation; because the discharge of saliva, by weakening the patient, might prevent the continuance of the mercurial course for the time necessary for the cure, which is seldom less than two months. A nourishing diluting diet should be advised, and the patient not be kept in bed, if the symptoms can be removed without it; and in warm weather, or a warmer climate, some cures may be effected without confinement. The decoction of sarsaparilla may also be given with the mercury, which should be made by boiling four ounces of the freshest root that can be procured in four pints of river water, till it comes to two pints: half a pint may be drank three or four times a day warm. This should be advised in all obstinate cases of this kind; for, though I am much inclined to think with many modern practitioners, that it has no power in destroying the venereal virus, yet I have seen some cases of venereal caries cured with this medicine alone, after a long-continued mercurial course had failed. This I account for by supposing, either that this vegetable had destroyed the venereal virus, or that the disease

in the part was the remaining effect produced by the virus, which had been eradicated by the mercury; and that the cure was then performed by the constitution, which it was not able to do while harrassed with a mercurial course: or, this idea being carried still further, may we suppose that mercury keeps up the disease by irritating the part, and that sarsaparilla acts as an antidote to such irritation?— One case of this kind happened, in 1776, to a Gentleman belonging to one of the Public Offices in London: he had a caries in the metacarpal bone of the second toe, attended with considerable pain, besides which he had nocturnal pains in his legs and arms: I had kept him in a gentle salivation for two months; during the last fortnight, there was no abatement of the pains, and he was much weakened by the ptyalism: his cure was completed by sarsaparilla alone, and he has remained well ever since, not having taken any mercury from that time. But in some of these cases, particularly those which are most difficult of cure, the only method of cure is, to introduce as large a quantity of mercury into the constitution as can be done with safety, and in as short a space of time as possible: mercurial fumigations may also be used to the diseased parts. This course must

must be continued daily as long as the patient can bear it, so as not to excite too violent effects upon the constitution ; and, in some cases, a salivation seems necessary. Another observation upon this kind of caries is, that it cannot always be cured by mercury ; for, if the venereal virus has produced such a disease in a bone, that a part of it must be thrown off, the venereal disease may be cured before nature has accomplished this necessary act : this is seen oftenest in the caries of the spongy bones of the nose, small portions of them continuing to come away at times for many months after the venereal virus is eradicated.

The next symptom to be treated of, is Deafness. This, though it certainly has happened from a venereal cause, yet does very seldom, if ever, occur without some other symptom of the disease, being, in most cases, caused by a venereal affection of the adjacent boney parts. The cure is to be performed by such a mercurial course as is necessary for curing the attendant venereal symptom. Mercurial fumigations may be used conveniently in this disorder, although very little benefit is to be expected from any topical remedies, till the venereal virus is destroyed. This deafness is usually attended with the teasing sensation of a singing or noise

in the ears, and without any alteration in the state of the ear-wax: but even this symptom cannot always be cured by mercury, because such a change may have been produced in the organ of hearing, by the disease, as to render it incurable; or it may remain after the venereal taint is removed, and may afterwards be cured by nature, or medical aid.

Abscesses and Ulcers, in various parts, are the next symptoms. Venereal abscesses happen most often upon the surface of the body or limbs; but the viscera, and the cavities in which they are seated, seem not to be subject to this venereal affection; for no instances are now met with of such a venereal symptom happening in the brain, lungs, heart, any of the abdominal viscera, or in their containing cavities. There are no certain symptoms by which a venereal abscess can be distinguished from any other; but, after a proper attention to every circumstance of the case, a skilful practitioner will, in general, be able to form a proper opinion on the subject. Numerous small venereal abscesses happen often when there are bad venereal eruptions on the skin, forming much like boils, breaking, and terminating in superficial venereal ulcers, which heal or scab over: but this kind belong to the subject of venereal eru-

eruptions. Venereal abscesses, in general, form with less pain and inflammation of the teguments than most others (except scrophulous ones); and the contained matter is not like common pus, but is usually of the ropy glairy kind, much like what is formed in a venereal bubo: this is somewhat remarkable, as it tends to prove, that this kind of matter is formed by the peculiar action of the venereal stimulus, and not, as is by many thought, owing to the structure of the parts where it is formed; for it is found in glandular parts, as are the groins, and on the leg, where there is no such glandular apparatus. They are generally very slow in their progress, and most commonly accompanied with considerable surrounding hardness: they are usually seated over, or contiguous to the fasciæ, and seldom happen on the face, except when in the lacrymal sac. These kind of abscesses may be permitted to break of themselves; for the cure depends chiefly on the mercurial course: but if, when they are fit to be opened, there is not a proper tendency in the part to break of itself, a puncture may be made with an imposthume-lancet, in the most depending part, for the more favourable exit of the matter; and the cure may be completed without any farther operation, if the part is kept

kept in a proper position, and constantly covered with emollient relaxing poultices.

Venereal ulcers are in most cases the consequence of such abscesses. They may be divided into two sorts: the one is that in which the ulcer resembles a common old ulcer in the leg, the sore being ill-conditioned, surrounded with a hardness of the part, and having callous lips: the other is an ulcer of the phagædemic kind, being painful, exquisitely tender to the touch, having jagged edges, and an uneven ulcerated surface; is studded over with round hillocks of whitish fungus; and, on the whole, bears a strong resemblance to a cancerous sore. These ulcers in general admit of no further benefit from external applications, than to keep them in a proper state with respect to the fungus which may grow on them, and to give some relief to the pain and tenderness: but they can seldom be healed by any topical remedies; and if they could, the venereal virus would shew itself in some other part of the body, and, most likely, in a worse form. The cure of these abscesses and ulcers must be performed by such a course of mercurials as will produce some evident effect upon the body. Salivation is seldom necessary; but confinement to the house

is so, in most of these cases. During the formation of a venereal abscess, if it comes forwards kindly, the mercurial course should be desisted from; because, as I have observed in buboes, that giving or rubbing in mercury, while matter is forming, very much retards this operation of nature, it would have the same effect, in this case. Some venereal ulcers are very difficult and tedious of cure: mercurial fumigations should be used to such: gum guaiacum also, in some of these cases, is of the greatest service towards hastening the healing of the sores; but, though it is a powerful assistant in many cases, and will cure some such ulcers, yet it does not possess the power of destroying the venereal virus; because, if during or after such cures, a proper mercurial course is not administered, symptoms of the constitutional lues venerea always appear afterwards, as hath been proved by the fairest experiments made with that medicine in several such cases. The method of using the gum guaiacum is, by mixing as much of it in a poultice of linseed-flour and water, as can be borne without causing much pain, and renewing it night and morning: it should also be given internally, in as large a quantity as possible without purging; to prevent which effect, a moderate quantity of opium

opium should be given with it. I had a patient who took half a drachm of guaiacum three times a day (with success) for such ulcers. The last remark which I have to make upon this subject is, that those applications which give most ease should be in every such case made use of, because the chief dependence is to be placed on mercury for a radical cure.

The Venereal Ophthalmia is the next venereal symptom which requires our attention. This is of two species: the one I style the Acute venereal ophthalmia, in which the inflammation is great, and the pain more than is usually produced by such disease from any other cause: the other, which is the more common one, is very slow in its progress, attended with little or no pain, and the inflamed eye is of a dingy red colour; the eye-lids also have a peculiar livid appearance, and a reddish tinge: this may be called the Chronic venereal ophthalmia. The cure of the first kind requires considerable skill, there being always danger of loss of sight, either from a suppuration happening in the globe of the eye, or from the cornea becoming impervious to the light. When a suppuration takes place, the eye sinks, and is contracted into a small hardish substance,

substance, causing an incurable blindness: nor does the blindness caused by an opacity of the cornea, in common, admit of any relief from the medical or surgical arts, being caused by a change of structure in the whole substance of the membrane, and not, as hath been imagined, by a partial disease of it. The first object in the cure of the venereal ophthalmia, is, to remove the inflammation; for which purpose, cooling purgative medicines, keeping the patient in a constant gentle perspiration in bed in a warm room, procuring rest by full doses of opium, (if the pain in the eye is so great as to prevent the patient from having natural sleep) and applying either emollient, sedative, or cooling remedies to the eye, whichever of these give most ease, are necessary. But bleeding from the arm, by a large orifice, repeated as often as is needful, is of much greater effect in reducing the inflammation, than all other remedies. Bleeding from the temple by leeches, and blisters on the back, may also be of use. But in this place a very critical question arises, which is, Whether mercury should be used at this time, or not? Some practitioners assert that it should; others, that it is improper, because it quickens the circulation: but this doctrine, though popular

plicable in other inflammations, is not so in this, which arising from a venereal stimulus, mercury, by removing the cause, will probably cure the disease. I have seen a few of these cases, in which the antiphlogistic plan, without mercury, was adopted, and used in the boldest way. In one of these cases, where each eye was inflamed, the sight of one was totally lost, though the patient was bled eleven times in fourteen days. I have also seen, and have treated some cases, in the other method, and am convinced it is the best practice. In one of these, in which each eye was inflamed as violently as in the last-mentioned case, the patient took a bolus of a grain and a half of opium and five grains of calomel every night, and a cathartic draught in the morning. This course was continued for three weeks (excepting two days, when these medicines were omitted on account of a tendency to a dysentery); but he recovered without any injury to his eye-sight. The most judicious method of treating this disease seems to be, to begin by taking away some blood from the arm by a large orifice, keeping the patient in a gentle perspiration in bed, procuring stools daily by cooling purgatives, administering nitre in considerable quantities, and using sedative and repellent

pellent applications to the diseased eye. If the case is truly venereal, by which I mean, if the inflammation is owing to that cause alone, the effect of these remedies would be slow; and mercurial ointment should be immediately rubbed in, or a proper quantity of one of its mild preparations given internally, so as to gently affect the mouth; and, at the same time, the antiphlogistic plan should be persisted in, till the inflammation and pain are so far subdued, as to prevent all danger of loss of sight. This mode of practice, of using mercury during an inflammation, is further proved to be judicious by that medicine being found in other such cases, particularly the phymosis, to be the most effectual in reducing a venereal inflammation.

The Fistula Lacrymalis is sometimes a symptom of the constitutional lues venerea. It is not attended with any characteristical marks, by which it can be distinguished from the other kinds of fistula lacrymalis; but is usually attended with some other venereal symptom; which circumstance will, in general, prove it to be venereal: it is also most frequently joined with a caries of the bones on which the lacrymal sac is placed, or through which its duct passes into the cavity of the nose, being

secondarily produced by such disease: but this is not always so; for in the Magdalen Hospital, in the summer of 1777, I had a fair case of a venereal fistula lacrymalis, without any disease of the adjacent bones.—The cure is to be effected by a mercurial course, which, if there are any other venereal symptoms, must be such as will cure them; or, if this should be the only disease, such a course as will produce some gentle mercurial effect upon the constitution, continued for six weeks, will, in general, do all that can be expected towards a cure by internals: but the disease cannot always be cured by mercury; for such an alteration in the structure of these parts may have taken place, as can only be cured or relieved by the most skilful surgical treatment: which cases, not being venereal, do not belong to the present work; but the disease has been judiciously treated on by Mr. Pott.

Tumors on the Hairy Scalp and Nape of the Neck, are a very common effect of the constitutional lues venerea. They are hard swellings, seated close under the skin, and in size something less than a common pea: their surface is usually covered with a scurfy skin: they are void of pain, and are seldom discovered but on the Surgeon's examination. They are, however, rarely the only symptom of the venereal

nereal disease: and when united with others, the cure will usually be effected by the mercurial course necessary for curing such complaints: and, if there is no other venereal symptom, such a course as was recommended for the venereal fistula lacrymalis will cure this. Topical remedies are no farther necessary than to keep the surface of the tumors supple and warm; which purpose may be answered by any mild cerate or ointment.

The next symptom is, Falling-off of the Hair. This is said by some authors to be a venereal affection, happening, in some instances, without any other effect of the disease; but, as they have not related any fair cases of that kind, and none such are now seen, it may, I think, be fairly concluded, that it never occurs in that manner: but, as the effect of the last symptom, it does sometimes occur, being then caused by the venereal virus which affects the parts from which the hair derives its nourishment.—The cure depends upon the removal of the symptom which causes it; and the growth of the hair must be left to the constitution; for no farther benefit can be expected from any mercurial course. This symptom is sometimes caused by the use of mercury.

The

The next subject is, the Venereal Hectic. This disease is usually accompanied with some other venereal symptoms; in which cases, it is difficult to know with certainty, whether it is venereal, or arises from some other cause, there being no characteristic symptom to distinguish the common from the venereal hectic. But that it is truly venereal in some cases, is, I think, proved by its cure being performed by mercury; whereas that medicine is known, from its action, to increase the irritability of the human body, and thereby exaggerate the symptoms of any other species of hectic.—The cure of all these cases is to be performed by the mildest mercurial preparations, used in the most cautious manner, beginning with very small portions, and gradually increasing them, till such a quantity is used as will produce some gentle effect upon the constitution. In these cases, the mercury should be given, or used, night and morning, that there may be the less probability of its irritating the constitution: confinement to the house is proper, and other medicines may be given to relieve the hectic symptoms: asses' milk is also found to be an efficacious remedy in many of these cases. If the other diseases are cured before the hectic, and its symptoms should be alleviated,

viated, a mercurial course will be the most likely to cure it ; but, if it should remain as bad as formerly, it will appear most probable, that it is not venereal, and that no further benefit is to be expected from mercury. Some cases of heptics, joined with other venereal symptoms, end fatally, from the constitution not being able to bear such a quantity of mercury as is requisite for their cure, without increasing the consumptive ones so as to endanger the patient's being killed either by the hectic or the venereal symptoms. The effect of opium should be tried in these cases ; for, if it was to lessen the irritability of the constitution, so as to enable it to bear the use of mercury, a cure might then be effected by these medicines, assisted with a strong decoction of mezereon, sarsaparilla, or any other medicines which are likely to answer this purpose, while other proper remedies are used for curing, or so far relieving, the hectic symptoms, as to render the patient capable of bearing the necessary quantity of mercury. The next species of venereal hectic is not accompanied with any other disorder. It is generally believed that this kind rarely occurs : but I am of opinion, that it is more common than is in general imagined ; for the venereal virus, when in the constitution, has even a power of bringing

ing on hectic symptoms before any venereal ones appear; some clear instances of which I have noticed. In order to discover the real nature of this disease, we should attend to the manner in which any former venereal symptoms were removed; for, if such cures were effected by a few mercurial inunctions, or doses, there would be reason to suppose the present symptom venereal. Another method is, trying the effects of mercury; for, if that relieved the hectic symptoms, there would be strong reason to suppose its being venereal. The cure is to be performed by a mild mercurial course; but such a one as will gently affect the mouth, or some other parts, is necessary. There is also another kind of hectic accompanying the venereal disease, and seeming to be caused by the mercurial course; for this symptom does not appear till the mercury stimulates the body, and gradually decreases, and totally disappears, on the mercurial course being left off; which process has happened several times during one cure. In such cases, sarsaparilla should be given in as great quantities as the patient's stomach and bowels will bear, during the mercurial course, it being likely to prevent the ill effects of mercury, because it certainly possesses

a peculiar quality in curing the disorders caused by it.

A Cough is one of the most uncommon symptoms of the venereal disease, so much so, that many practitioners doubt whether a venereal one ever occurs. It happens in some cases of the venereal hectic, and is then certainly an effect of the pox, if not a true venereal symptom. The following is a case in which it seems clearly to have been venereal, and the only symptom produced by the disease.—A Gentleman, thirty-four years of age, was afflicted with a dry tickling cough, (which was the only disorder he had) : a cure was attempted by two skilful Physicians, by the most judicious treatment, but without effect; and was afterwards performed by mercury alone. From the circumstances of this patient having been hastily cured of chancres, six months before the cough came on, and its being cured by mercury, it appears to me to be more than probable that it was a true venereal symptom.

An Ozæna has been already spoken of, under the head of Caries of the Offa Spongiosa.

The next symptom is a Polypus of the Nose. This is not generally known, either by authors or practitioners, ever to be venereal :

real: the late Mr. Samuel Sharpe does not mention the venereal polypus, either in his Treatise on the Operations of Surgery, or his Critical Enquiry; but Le Dran, in his Surgery, remarks that this disease is sometimes caused by a venereal caries of the bones in the nose. An extraordinary case of this kind occurred in the London Hospital, in 1775, under the care of Mr. Thomson. A man about forty years of age, had two large polypi of the nose: they filled the whole cavity of each nostril, and caused a very extraordinary deformity, by expanding the nose so as to make it cover great part of each cheek, accompanied with a caries of the osseous nasi: he had also venereal eruptions on various parts of his body. This case was proved to be venereal by its cure being nearly performed by a mercurial course, (without any operation) which would probably have been completed, had not the unhappy patient been taken ill of a putrid fever, of which he died.—And, as this disease is found in some instances to be venereal, it is probable that this kind may occur, unaccompanied with any other venereal symptom. The cure of this complaint must be attempted by such a mercurial course as will produce some apparent effect upon the constitution, which must be kept up till the venereal

venereal virus is supposed to be destroyed, and the operation of removing the polypus should be deferred till then ; but will, I suppose, be found necessary afterwards.

Loss of Sight is another effect of the constitutional lues venerea. This seems never to happen from the venereal disease, but in consequence of the ophthalmia, as before mentioned. Neither the cataract, nor gutta serena, seems ever to be venereal ; for the disease is never found to fix on any single humour of the eye, so as to produce its opacity ; nor to cause a disease of any nerve, which must happen to the optic nerve in the gutta serena. Venereal blindness is in most instances incurable, being usually the consequence of a total change of structure in that organ, from a venereal suppuration : but one kind of blindness may occur, in which some relief may be had from a surgical operation ; which is, when, from a venereal inflammation, there has ensued a thickening or opacity of the outer portion of the cornea. The operation proposed, is cutting off the opake part ; which must be done with a very fine knife, such as is used for cutting the cornea in the operation of extracting the crystalline lens : this may be done with much facility and safety, the cornea being as

thick as the sclerotica. But it must be remarked, that this kind of blindness very seldom occurs, the cause being usually a change of structure of the whole membrane; in which case no benefit could be derived from any operation.

Scaly Eruptions, or Chaps in the Hands, are the next symptom to be treated on. This disease, in most instances, is joined with other worse venereal ones; under which circumstances it will be cured by the mercurial course used for their cure. These eruptions have some resemblance to the leprous eruption; and the chinks which sometimes happen, much resemble the chaps in the hands from extreme cold. This state of the disease may occur without any other venereal symptom, which is proved by the following case. A friend of mine, an Apothecary, had an ulcer situated on the fore finger of his left hand, as large as a small issue, of a white colour, extremely painful when touched, and surrounded with a callous edge: the palm of the hand was also covered with a scurfy eruption. This had been treated in the most judicious way for three months, (on the supposition of its not being venereal) at the end of which time he asked my opinion: I judged it to be venereal:

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he treated it accordingly, and was cured in less than six weeks. The cure of this symptom must be performed by such a mercurial course as will produce apparent, though slight, effects upon the constitution; confinement to the house being seldom needful.

Small Ulcers over the whole inside of the Mouth and Tongue: this I have ventured to add to the list of symptoms of the constitutional lues venerea, from having seen a clear case of this disease in the Magdalen Hospital, in August, 1778. A young woman, nineteen years of age, was taken into the Hospital in May, 1777; and from that time to the April following, had been at different times subject to a coloured discharge from the vagina, sometimes accompanied with an ardor urinæ; which was thought to be a fluor albus, and treated as such. She was now attacked with this disease: the inside of her mouth and sides of the tongue were thickly studded over with small ulcers, which resembled punctures made by a sharp-pointed round instrument: each was surrounded with an inflammation, and they were so sore when touched, that eating caused great pain. Emollient, astringent, and other applications, were used without any benefit; and the bark was given internally with the

same want of success. She had observed, during the last two months, that, when her mouth was better, the gonorrhœa was worse, and that, when it was better, her mouth was worse ; which gave me the first hint of its being venereal : but this patient's complaint was proved to be venereal from her being attacked with true venereal blotches all over her body, and their cure being effected by a mercurial course, after various other remedies had failed of success.

The Head-ach is another disease which sometimes happens from a venereal cause. This is a common attendant upon the disease, when it has produced a caries of the bones of the skull, but in such cases appears more as the effect of the caries, than as a truly venereal symptom. This kind of head-ach sometimes occurs without any other local disease : it is known from experience, that the venereal disease is as capable of producing pains in the bones of the head, as in those of the limbs ; and in this manner is this head-ach usually caused. But I have had two cases related to me of a constant venereal head-ach, without any apparent disease of the outer parts ; but whether it arose from an affection of the bones, the pericranium, or what other part, could not be

be determined. The cure of this symptom must be performed by such a course of mercury, as will produce some slight effect upon the constitution.

Such are the most common symptoms of the Venereal Disease: but it has appeared in various other forms; which cases are to be regarded as extraordinary ones, and generally may be accounted for on the known principle of this disease, like most other constitutional ones, having ever a tendency to fix on weakened or diseased parts. On this theory it follows, that many cases, particularly surgical ones, which had their origin from some other cause, may become venereal. In order to form a judicious prognostic upon such cases, three circumstances are to be attended to; which are, first, the event of any former venereal complaints, which the patient may have been afflicted with; secondly, the symptoms of the present disease; and, lastly, the effect of mercury, or any other medicines, on the disorder. With respect to the first circumstance, this may serve as a guide in forming a just prognostic, by ascertaining the probability of the disease being venereal or not, by former venereal symptoms having been skilfully cured; in which case, there is less probability of its being

being so, and vice versa. From the second circumstance, much may be learnt from a due attention to the appearance and progress of the disease; because most local ones, for example, ulcers and abscesses, usually have some peculiar symptoms, tending to discover their true nature: but in other cases (as the venereal headache) no farther information can be derived from the symptoms of the disease, than their not resembling those of the same complaint from any other cause; from which circumstance there would be more probability of its being venereal.

The Fistula in Ano sometimes arises from a venereal cause; but most of such cases are accompanied with some disease of the urethra and neck of the bladder: however, it is probable, that some fistulæ in ano may have a venereal taint without any other pocky symptoms, because some of them will not heal till mercury has been administered.

The last subjects to be treated on, are those venereal symptoms mentioned by ancient authors, but which do not now ever happen. Their mistakes seem to have originated from their not having any proper theory on the causes of many diseases, which they falsely classed as venereal, from that being a disorder

supposed capable of producing most others; as it is now customary to call many complaints nervous, or scorbutic, which are really not so, merely because their origin and causes are unknown.

The first disease of this kind mentioned by them is, the Falling Sickness, which they said happened in consequence of that disease attacking the brain: but no cases are given to prove the verity of this assertion; and in modern practice, even in cases in which almost the whole boney covering of the brain is diseased and rotted by the venereal virus, no distemper of the brain, or impediment to its functions, are ever observed to be the consequence: it is therefore highly probable, that the venereal virus never attacks the brain, as it certainly seems never to fix on the nerves. But from the unskilful use of mercury, madness has been produced; as hath a violent dizziness of the head, bordering on the falling sickness; from which circumstances I think it probable, that the effects of mercury were mistaken for those of the Venereal Disease.

The Asthma is another disorder, supposed by the ancients to be caused by the Venereal Disease when it attacks the lungs: but, as there do not appear

appear to be any fair cases on record, to prove that this is ever a venereal symptom, and as none of that kind ever now occur, it is certainly most reasonable to suppose, that it never is venereal.

When the venereal virus attacked the abdominal viscera, it was said to produce Pains in the Bowels, and sometimes the Bloody Flux: but, as no such effects of the venereal disease are ever now seen, we imagine that it never causes these symptoms. As a circumstance tending further to strengthen this opinion, it may be added, that venereal matter, even taken into the stomach, seems incapable of producing any disease of that bowel; which I am induced to believe, from two well-authenticated instances of venereal matter being received into the stomach without producing any disease. This may be accounted for, on the theory of the matter having been so compounded by the act of digestion, as to lose its virulence, and being probably thereby totally changed in its nature. It must also be observed, that the disease here treated of, is similar, in all its symptoms, to what is sometimes caused by the mercury's irritating the bowels.

The Leprosy has also been said, by authors,

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to be in some cases venereal. This idea might have arisen from venereal eruptions bearing a faint resemblance in some bad cases to the leprosy, and from the circumstance of mercury being of use in some leprous cases. But the fact is, that the leprosy is very different in its appearance from any cases of venereal eruptions; and the authors who treat of it as venereal, give no cases to prove their assertion; and of the leprous cases which occur in this country, no venereal ones are ever observed: from all which circumstances it may be fairly inferred, that the leprosy never is venereal.

I beg leave to finish this Work with an extract from the conclusion of Mr. Pott's most excellent Treatise on Ruptures, which exactly coincides with my sentiments on this subject.

“ This is a subject in which mankind are
 “ much interested, and on which a good deal
 “ might be said; but, as an honest attempt
 “ to save the afflicted from the hands of those
 “ who have no characters to lose, might, from
 “ one of the Profession, be misconstrued into
 “ malevolence and craft, I will not enter into
 “ it, but shall conclude, by wishing that they
 “ who have capacity to judge of these matters,

" would not suffer themselves to be deluded
" by the impudent assertions of any Charlatan
" whatever, but determine in this, as they
" do in many other things, by the event" of
cases submitted to their management, and to
that of regular practitioners.

T H E E N D.







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